

Government of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

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DLCA EDUCATES BEFORE IT REGULATES
CASH PAYMENTS VERSUS CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Effective April 3, 2020, Act 8205 a/k/a Bill No. 33-0098 gave the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) the responsibility to regulate business practices relative to forms of payment required by businesses to accept. Senator Kurt Vialet and members of the 33rd Legislature of the Virgin Islands passed the legislation to ban cash only businesses. Some persons do not have cash readily available and it is very inconvenient for customers who are unable to transact business with certain establishments that only accept cash payments. The legislation is not applicable to itinerant vendors, farmers certified by the Department of Agriculture, fishermen certified by the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs and commercial establishments with an annual volume of business of less than \$50,000 per year.

When the legislation passed in 2019, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 a/k/a COVID-19 was not contemplated and now there is an uncertainty of whether or not the virus is spread via the handling of cash, either paper or coin. Currently, there are certain businesses that only accept electronic payments until further notice to ensure the public health safety of its employees and customers alike with the information readily available regarding how COVID-19 is spread. For the remainder of the existing Public Health State of Emergency due to COVID-19, DLCA as a matter of discretionary policy has determined that it in the interest of protecting against the potential for spread of COVID-19, it will not administratively enforce against those establishments limiting form of payment available to customers to electronic payments.

The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs appreciates the public's cooperation. For consumer related issues you may email us at consumerawareness@dlca.vi.gov or call our hotlines on St. Croix 340.727.SCAM(7226) or St. Thomas/St. John at 340.771.SCAM(7226). You may file a consumer complaint at www.dlca.vi.gov.

For more information on COVID-19, the new strain of coronavirus, please visit the USVI Department of Health's website, doh.vi.gov/coronavirus or text COVID19USVI to 888777. For non-medical information call (340) 715-6843 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. 7 days per week. #COVID19USVI



"Serving Businesses and Assisting, Educating, & Protecting Consumers"

www.dlca.vi.gov