



Government of the Virgin Islands
of the United States

Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs
Office of the Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

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**THE VIPD AND DLCA MADE AN ARREST
IN JOINT ENFORCEMENT OPERATION**

(U.S. Virgin Islands) – On January 26, 2024, at around 8:40 pm, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Enforcement Officers arrested Miguel De Los Santos of Mi Bloque VI LLC. The charges against De Los Santos included disobeying a lawful order and operating without a valid business license. A cease-and-desist order was issued to Mi Bloque VI LLC on December 1, 2023, for operations at 29-30 Altona, St. Thomas, VI.

During the enforcement operation, at approximately 8:30 pm, VIPD and DLCA officers encountered challenges in ensuring compliance. Miguel De Los Santos, though initially absent, arrived on the scene and refused orders to close the establishment. Despite orders to close, De Los Santos refused, stating he would prefer arrest. The DLCA’s Chief of Enforcement, Darryl Donovan, arrested and charged De Los Santos with disobeying a lawful order and operating without a valid business license.

The DLCA reminds the general public that operating a business without a valid business license is a direct violation of 27 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 9, § 301. Additionally, pursuant to 3 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 16, § 272(h), “Any violation of the provisions of this chapter or of the provisions contained in the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or of the orders and resolutions issued by the Department shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment of not to exceed six months, or by both at the discretion of the court.” The DLCA also reminds the general public that accused individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

DLCA Commissioner Designee, H. Nathalie Hodge, emphasized the seriousness of such violations and the implications they hold for public safety and legal compliance. "It is crucial for all businesses to adhere to lawful orders and licensing requirements to maintain a safe and orderly community", said Hodge. "I strongly urge all business owners to review and comply with regulatory directives promptly. Failure to do so may result in legal consequences, as demonstrated by the recent actions taken against Mi Bloque VI LLC."

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the DLCA offices at 340.774.3522 on St. Thomas or 340.773.3522 on St. Croix.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory’s people, infrastructure, and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government, and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov.



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

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