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of the United States

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DLCA REMINDS BUSINESSES AND ESTABLISHMENTS THAT
THEY ARE PROHIBITED FROM SELLING AND SERVING
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO MINORS**

Wayne Biggs, Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) is reminding all businesses and establishments that it is a violation of the Virgin Islands Code for alcohol or tobacco to be sold to any person under the age of eighteen (18). "DLCA will boost its enforcement inspections and operations during the Carnival season. One particular problem that continues to exist in the Virgin Islands stems from persons who purchase alcohol for minors. This may include an older sibling, a family member or friend of the minor. This particular issue poses the greatest challenge to combat. The community is encouraged to do its part and not enable underage drinking or smoking," said Commissioner Biggs.

DLCA reminds all businesses and establishments of the following requirements:

- **Business license must be posted.** Failure to display a current business license may result in a fine of up to \$500.00, pursuant to Title 27, Section 307b of the Virgin Islands Code. Separate licenses are required for each of the following activities: selling tobacco products such as cigarettes and dispensing alcoholic beverages (liquor license).
- **DLCA signs prohibiting the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors must be posted in a conspicuous place.** The owner of any business or establishment holding a license to dispense alcoholic beverages or sell tobacco products, shall prominently display a sign which clearly states that it is a violation of law for alcohol or tobacco to be sold to any person under the age of eighteen (18). DLCA has distributed copies of these "Be 18 or Be Gone" signs, printed in both English and Spanish, to all establishments that sell alcohol and tobacco products.
- **Minors are prohibited from assisting with alcoholic products.** This includes but is not limited to working as bartenders, engaging in the sale of alcohol, or serving alcoholic products.

DLCA Enforcement Officers will conduct inspections to ensure compliance. Employers should make it a priority to advise their employees of the laws that pertain to alcohol, cigarettes, and other tobacco products being sold to minors. Businesses and establishments should always ask for identification to verify age.

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

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PRESS RELEASE