

The Virgin Islands Consortium

U.S. Attorney's Office Champions National Night Out Events in the Virgin Islands

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Staff Consortium **October 18, 2023**



The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of the Virgin Islands has announced its steadfast support for the annual National Night Out events taking place throughout the territory in October. These events underscore the vital collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

In partnership with the Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission and the Virgin Islands Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group Board, a series of events have been organized across the Virgin Islands. Notably, events were held in Buddhoe Park, St. Croix on October 7th and at the Franklin Powell Bandstand on St. John on October 13th. Upcoming events on St. Thomas include:

- October 27th, 2023, at 5 p.m.: Community Prayer & Praise Day, set to take place at the Promenade by the Waterfront.
- October 28th, 2023, at 4 p.m.: A gathering from Emile Griffith Park leading to Emancipation Garden.

U.S. Attorney Delia Smith emphasized the significance of these gatherings, stating, “National Night Out events are a vital opportunity to reaffirm the close partnership between law enforcement and the communities we serve.”

Originating in 1984 and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Night Out is a nationwide initiative designed to foster trust and solidarity between law enforcement and local communities, ultimately aiming to make neighborhoods safer. Managed by the non-profit organization National Association of Town Watch, the initiative witnesses millions of participants across the country.

Within the Virgin Islands, local law enforcement, in collaboration with trained volunteers, coordinate the program. The purpose of these events ranges from block parties, cookouts, and parades to safety demonstrations, youth activities, and visits from emergency personnel. The overarching goal is to reinforce the unity of neighbors in maintaining safety in their communities.

Interested individuals or organizations looking to participate as providers for a local National Night Out event are encouraged to get in touch with the Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission. They can contact either Jacqueline Freeman or Ana Creque at (340) 774-6500 ext. 210 or 209.

For more detailed information about National Night Out and its objectives, please refer to <https://natw.org/>.