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VIPD to Enforce No Ski Mask Rule During St. Thomas Carnival for Enhanced Security

Attendees encouraged to comply with new safety protocols for a secure carnival experience

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Revelers wearing masks during the Crucian Christmas Festival in 2019. By. REEMY-REEMZ PHOTOGRAPHY/VICONSORTIUM

As the anticipation builds for the St. Thomas Carnival 2024, themed “A Cultural Tour Like Never Before”, the V.I. Police Department has issued a guideline regarding the wearing of masks during the festive season, specifically targeting the J’ouvert celebrations.

In a move aimed at bolstering security, the VIPD has announced that ski masks or any form of full-face coverings will not be permitted at any of the carnival events.

Participants and spectators found wearing full-face masks or ski masks will be promptly asked to remove them. The VIPD has stated that this measure is a critical security protocol, and individuals failing to adhere to this request will be escorted away from the festivities. This guideline has been put in place to ensure the safety and security of all attendees during the carnival season, the police department said.

However, the VIPD has made exceptions for masks regulated for Covid-19 prevention, recognizing the ongoing need for personal health safety amidst the pandemic. Attendees wishing to wear masks for health protection are encouraged to do so, following the protocols set forth by Governor Albert Bryan and the V.I. Department of Health. These Covid-specific masks are allowed to ensure that individuals can protect themselves from potential ailments while participating in the carnival activities.

The VIPD said it is committed to making the St. Thomas Carnival season a secure and enjoyable experience for both locals and visitors. The department is calling for the community's cooperation with the new mask guidelines, emphasizing that the safety of everyone involved is the utmost priority.