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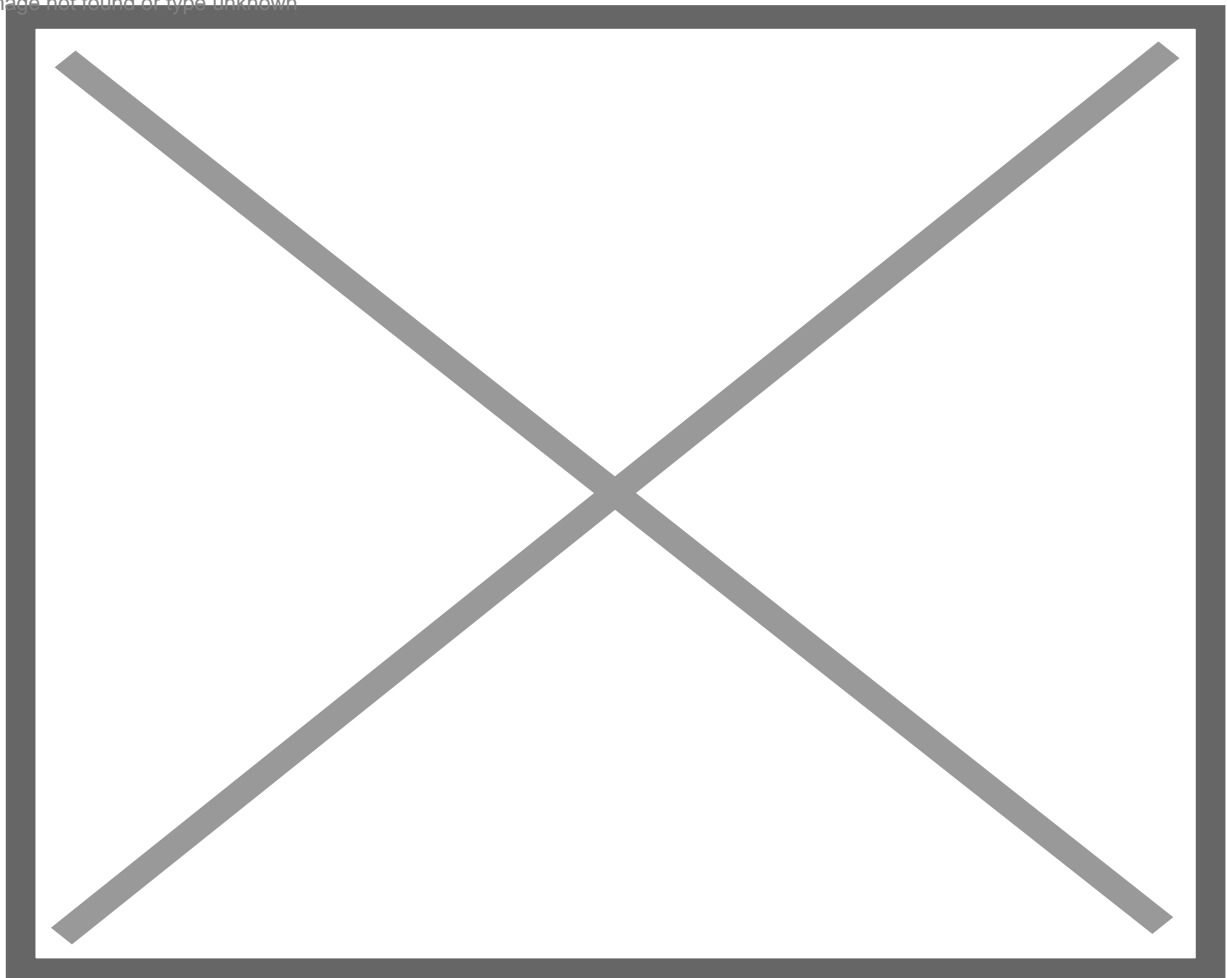
Bryan Announces Amended Government Office Closures for Holiday Season and Crucian Christmas Festival

Government offices will close on multiple dates during the 2024-2025 holiday season, including for the St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival J'ouvert and Children's Parade, allowing employees to honor cultural traditions and participate in celebrations

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In anticipation of the upcoming holiday season and the St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. has expanded the administrative leave proclamation to reflect government office closures on multiple dates. The designated closures are intended to allow public sector employees to observe legal holidays and participate in community celebrations.

Under Title 1 V.I.C. § 171, the following dates are recognized as legal holidays:

- Wednesday, December 25, 2024: Christmas Day
- Thursday, December 26, 2024: Christmas Second Day
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025: New Year's Day
- Monday, January 6, 2025: Three Kings Day

In addition to these legal holidays, administrative leave has been granted to coincide with significant events during the St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival. On Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in recognition of the Crucian Christmas Festival Food, Arts, and Crafts Fair, government offices will remain closed. Further, on Thursday, January 2, 2025, administrative leave will apply exclusively to St. Croix, where offices will close from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Traditional St. Croix Festival J'ouvert, allowing employees to join the festivities.

Territory-wide closures have also been approved for the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 24, 2024: Half-day closure from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 31, 2024: Half-day closure from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 3, 2025: Full-day closure from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival Children's Parade

Governor Bryan emphasized the importance of these closures, stating, "This time is important for honoring our cultural traditions and allowing our public sector employees to participate in community celebrations. By officially recognizing these days, we ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage fully in these hallmark events that bring our community together."

The governor also encouraged Virgin Islanders to embrace the season, noting, "It is also an opportunity for Virgin Islanders to come together, spread cheer, and serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Territory. During this holiday, I encourage everyone to engage in family gatherings, enjoy the festival activities, reflect on our blessings, and pray for continued growth and restoration in our families, economy, and community."

The closures are expected to enhance community participation in the holiday festivities and the iconic Crucian Christmas Festival, reinforcing cultural unity and celebration across the territory