

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Executive Order Allows Officers to Use Government Equipment During Approved Off-Duty Work

Government House says the order creates a structured framework for VIPD officers engaged in authorized secondary employment, outlining liability protections, mandatory body cameras, and disciplinary consequences for violations.

Government / **Published On February 09, 2026 05:41 PM /**

Janeke Simon **February 09, 2026**



Police officers engaged in approved off-duty work will now be allowed to use certain government-issued equipment under a new executive order intended to formalize the practice while establishing clear limits, accountability measures, and liability protections.

The policy change was announced Monday during a press briefing by Government House Communications Director Richard Motta, who said the executive order addresses long-standing needs for trained law enforcement presence at special events and other settings requiring security, while ensuring the territory and the public are protected.

“There are lawful needs for trained law enforcement presence during special events and in other settings where safety and order are essential,” Motta said. “Many of our officers take on approved off-duty work to supplement their income.” He added that the executive order “establishes a clear framework for when and how VIPD officers may use certain government-issued equipment...with strict accountability and safeguards that protect the public and protect the territory.”

Under the order, authority is delegated to the V.I. Police Department commissioner to develop and oversee the process governing the use of government equipment during authorized secondary employment.

“This is not a free for all,” Motta cautioned. “It is a structured process with clear lines of responsibility.”

The executive order also addresses liability concerns tied to off-duty assignments. According to Motta, any private employer requesting police services must carry required insurance coverage, including workers’ compensation, as mandated by Virgin Islands law. In addition, indemnity provisions approved by the Attorney General will be required to ensure that “the territory is not left exposed when a private entity is the party requesting the service.”

Motta also sought to clarify boundaries around the use of government vehicles and equipment, stating that “personal errands and unauthorized stops” are strictly prohibited while officers are engaged in sanctioned secondary employment. He further emphasized that the use of body-worn cameras will be mandatory whenever an officer is in uniform or performing law enforcement functions outside of regular duty hours.

Violations of the executive order’s requirements will carry consequences. Motta said noncompliance will result in “progressive discipline up to termination for serious or egregious conduct,” with investigations handled by the VIPD Internal Affairs unit.

The VIPD commissioner is now expected to “issue implementing procedures and conduct training for all sworn officers within 15 days,” Motta said, marking the next step in putting the policy into effect.