

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Barnes Asks DLCA to Issue Price Freeze on Basic Food Items Amid Hardship Caused by Coronavirus Pandemic

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Senator Alicia Barnes has requested that the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs add the food basket survey items to the commodities list impacted by the price freeze ordered on March 13.

In a release issued Monday, Ms. Barnes noted that the items that were initially included on the price freeze only addressed items that dealt with containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. "However, it has become apparent that this global pandemic is impacting so much more of our daily lives than initially anticipated," Ms. Barnes said. As

this novel disease continues to wreak havoc globally, additional commodities must be included in the price freeze and restricted sales order.

"I am requesting that the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs amend its order to include those items found on the department's food basket survey. However, understanding the concept of supply and demand, if this is impracticable, I strongly recommend the development and implementation of a price control plan to mitigate the drastic price increases for basic food items," she said.

Senator Barnes concluded by stating that she has spoken with DLCA Commissioner Evangelista and applauds his department's efforts to protect consumers during these challenging times. The senator anticipates that her request will be given immediate attention.