

The Virgin Islands Consortium

New Scam Purports to Be VI Government Soliciting Donations From Local Companies for Coronavirus Research, DLCA Warns

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The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs is advising the general public that there is an individual and/or group portraying to represent the Government of the Virgin Islands and soliciting donations from companies operating in the territory.

According to DLCA, the solicitation indicates “President Donald Trump, Jr. is seeking donations of \$25,000 and upwards from companies and business owners operating within Virgin Islands to fund research programs to find a cure and possibly a vaccine for the deadly COVID-19 virus.”

The letter further states that "Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. endorsed the appointment of Commissioner of Finance, Mr. Kirk Callwood, with the responsibility to with the responsibility of coordinating the fundraising activities in the Virgin Islands."

The solicitation is printed on what appears to be authentic letterhead but upon closer examination, one quickly realizes that the contact number is incorrect for the Department of Finance and Commissioner Kirk Callwood's signature was transposed from an unknown source, DLCA said.

DLCA said if you receive a call, email, or letter requesting a donation for the Government of the Virgin Islands that you believe to be suspicious, hang up or do not respond.

"We encourage the public to report the solicitation for a donation to the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs or to the VIPD," said DLCA Commissioner Richard Evangelista.

For consumer related issues you may email us at consumerawareness@dlca.vi.gov or call our hotlines on St. Croix 340.727.SCAM(7226) or St. Thomas/St. John at 340.771.SCAM(7226). You may also file a consumer complaint at www.dlca.vi.gov