

The Virgin Islands Consortium

DLCA To Conduct Investigation Into Reports Of Rotten Produce Being Sold At Cost-U-Less

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Following a recent [VI Consortium investigation](#) that brought to light rotten produce being sold at the Cost-U-Less wholesaler on St. Croix, the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) says it will conduct its own investigation into the matter, with the department's Commissioner-designee, Devin Carrington, calling the findings "completely unacceptable" and stating that "there is no reason why our consumers should be treated any differently than consumers on the mainland where this company is headquartered."

According to Carrington, while Virgin Islands Code assigns the regulation of the quality of food items on store shelves to the Department of Health, Division of Environmental

Health, the role of DLCA is to "ensure that a licensee does not allow or permit in the any improper or wrongful behavior of a substantial character and



Rotten lettuce with black decay found at Cost-U-Less

"This situation is most certainly wrongful and of public concern," he continued. "Based on these reports, the department shall do its investigation and take appropriate action against the establishment as provided by law. Where fines are warranted, the licensee shall pay."

Carrington said he believes consumers are the most powerful in combating "wrongful and improper" acts by businesses, which benefits DLCA, especially at a time when the department is handicapped to conduct investigations "as often as needed" because of personnel shortages. However, he said he would prefer concerned consumers contact the department first when they see bad business practices, although he urged residents to use "all means of publicity available."

To simplify the process, DLCA will soon be establishing a Facebook page where consumers will be able to post pictures of their experiences to give the department's inspectors and enforcement officers timely information so that they may take action, Carrington said. Consumers may also email photos and reports to DLCA staff at info@dlca.vi.gov.

For more information or to file a report, consumers may visit DLCA offices or call (340) 714-3522 on St. Thomas or (340) 713-3522 on St. Croix.