

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Bill By Senator Roach Aims At Providing Residents 'Open Access' To Smith Bay Beach

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ST. THOMAS -- Senator Tregenza A. Roach has offered a bill request to enact legislation which he believes will address the concerns raised by residents about access to Smith Bay Beach, which is managed by the Magens Bay Authority, a press release issued by Mr. Roach's office on Saturday made known.

The bill would amend the statute which presently gives the Magens Bay Authority control over both Smith Bay Beach and Magens Bay by specifically providing for open access to the beaches outside the Authority's normal hours of operation.

“I think we recognize the value of placing the beaches under the Authority’s control. They have done a wonderful job with the facilities constructed at Smith Bay. But we cannot so restrict access to the beaches where we prevent our residents from enjoying our beaches in ways that they have done traditionally,” Mr. Roach said.

The bill would require residents to comply with rules and regulations the Authority has put in place with regard to the safe and orderly use of the beaches, but would specifically prohibit the Authority from creating any barriers to access at any time.

Feature Image: Magens Bay, St. Thomas.

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