

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Senator Francis Commends Police Commissioner On Increased Police Presence

VIC News / **Published On December 23, 2015 10:04 PM /**

Staff **December 23, 2015**



Sen. Novelle Francis, Jr.

ST. CROIX -- Senator Novelle Francis, Jr. today commended Police Commissioner Delroy Richards for the increased police presence and initiatives taking place across the territory, according to a press release issued by Mr. Francis' office.

Mr. Francis, the Chair of the Senate's Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety and Justice, says the surge in law enforcement activity is important as the territory nears the peak of the holiday season and festivities.

“People need to feel safe when they go out, whether it’s to support our local shops and restaurants, visit friends and family or participate in our cultural events,” Mr. Francis said. “The traffic stops and increased police presence help to reinforce the message that we are all committed to a safe and festive holiday season.”

The senator hopes that the heightened police presence will continue into the new year and help to further quell criminal activity and gun violence.

And Mr. Francis has taken steps to further support public safety by sponsoring a bill request to enact legislation which would ban the sale of certain toy guns. He calls the proposed legislation a precautionary measure that could ultimately save lives.

“Many of these guns are so realistic that even law enforcement professionals aren’t immediately able to tell that it’s not a real weapon,” he said. “In recent years, we have heard of tragic events taking place because of the prevalence of these imitation weapons, which I believe should not be sold in our stores and certainly not by vendors at our cultural events.”

Mr. Francis says he’s looking forward to participating in the many cultural activities over the holidays and wishes residents and visitors alike a happy and safe festival season as they close out 2015.

“As we celebrate this season of peace and hope, let us also look forward with optimism to all that can be accomplished in the New Year and days ahead if we all commit to working together for the betterment of the territory.”