

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## Mapp Grants Four Days Of Holiday Leave To Government Employees As Festive Season Takes Hold

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ST. CROIX -- The U.S. Virgin Islands is in full holiday mode now, and Governor Kenneth Mapp this afternoon has added even more cheer to the season for government employees, announcing four days of holiday-season leave to non-essential employees.

St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival J'ouvert will be held on the morning of Wednesday January 4, 2017, followed by the Food, Arts and Craft Fair. The Children's Parade will be held on Friday, January 6, 2017 which is also *Three King's Day*. The St. Croix Adult's Festival Parade will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2017.

Through a proclamation, Mr. Mapp has authorized government agency and department heads to grant administrative leave for what Government House described as the enjoyment of the festive season, and to encourage greater participation in the J'ouvert, Festival Food, Arts & Craft Fair, and Children's Parade, and also to enhance the celebration of the Christmas Festival by all residents and visitors.

The holidays are as follows:

**ST. CROIX ONLY:**

**Wednesday, January 4, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival J'ouvert**

**St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival Food, Arts and Craft Fair**

**TERRITORY-WIDE:**

**Friday, December 23, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Day before Christmas Eve**

**Friday, December 30, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Day before New Year's Eve**

**Monday, January 2, 2017**

"At this time of year we should focus on family, community and holiday festivities. Educating our children and young ones about the value of our traditions and rich heritage will help to build self-respect and pride among all," the governor said. "To the adults, I encourage you all to come out to support the Children's Parade and inspire our youth to develop their creativity."

The leave granted above shall not apply to essential employees and employees on a regular or rotating shift, according to Government House. Mr. Mapp concluded by wishing all happy holidays.

[View the original embedded media](#)

*Feature Image: Celebrity Keri Hilson dancing in St. Thomas in April during the island's carnival. (Credit: Ernice Gilbert, VIC)*