

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VIPD, Office of Highway Safety to Crackdown on Drunk Driving: 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over'

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The Virgin Islands Police Department and the Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety (VIOHS) announced Wednesday the launch of their high visibility enforcement campaign beginning July 1 - September 30.

According to the release, high visibility enforcement is designed to deter people from driving after consuming alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, and prescription medication. The VIPD will be increasing the number of law enforcement officers to protect the lives of residents and visitors in the community, said the police force.

"You will see increased enforcement on the roadways, conducting zero-tolerance Comprehensive Sobriety Roadside Checkpoints to detect and apprehend those who drive impaired," said the release.

In Fiscal Year 2019, the Virgin Islands experienced a total of 4,722 collisions territory-wide; 709 of those collisions resulted in injuries, while 18 were reported as fatalities. The territory also incurred 79 DUI arrests and two impaired driving-related fatalities, the police department made known.

By working together, Mr. Velinor and the Office of Highway Safety are encouraging the public to practice safe driving by complying to the traffic rules and regulations, which can reduce crashes, save lives, and prevent injuries in our community, according to the release.

They also encouraged continued COVID-19 protocols adherence. "Remember to always be vigilant and to put safety first by planning a safe way home before you start to drink. If you plan to go out and enjoy the evening with alcohol, select a designated driver. Join us in helping to keep everyone safe on the road," said the release.