

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. John Festival Village Opens; Port Authority Gives Update On Security, Parking At Red Hook And Cruz Bay

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With the St. John Festival Village opening on Friday night in Cruz Bay as the island celebrates its 65th Anniversary of carnival, the Virgin Islands Port Authority is reminding the community of the following to ensure a safe and enjoyable festival season:

Security

Measures will be heightened at VIPA's seaports in Red Hook, St. Thomas and Cruz Bay, St. John. Travelers should expect to encounter Port Police, TSA agents and other law

enforcement officers conducting security screenings and searches. These measures were requested by the St. John Carnival Committee in the interest of providing a safe festival experience for the community and visitors.

Firearms

Only law enforcement officers will be permitted to possess firearms on the ferries. A previous announcement issued by VIPA stated that the boat captains would collect all other licensed firearms. However, VIPA was later notified by the owners of the ferry companies that the ferry captains and personnel will **not** be allowing or storing any firearms on their vessels.

Berthing

V.I.P.A. is asking the community to adhere to the posted signs prohibiting vessel berthing at the Victor Sewer Marine Facility (the Creek) in Cruz Bay. Berthing space has been reserved for law enforcement vessels. Privately-owned vessels berthed in the reserved spaces will be removed.

Parking

Parking will be provided by VIPA at the temporary gravel lot adjacent to the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School for a flat rate of \$10. Shuttle service will be provided by East End Taxi at \$2 per trip. Parking will also be available on the lower level only at the new parking garage at the Urman V. Fredericks Marine Terminal for a flat rate of \$10. There are 75 regular parking spaces and 6 accessible spaces on the lower level. (The fees at the parking garage will revert to normal after parking equipment is installed.)