

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## No Celebratory Gunfire on New Year's Eve, VIPD Warns

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The Virgin Islands Police Department is reminding the community of the dangers of celebratory gunfire for New Year's Eve. It is illegal, dangerous and the consequences can be significant and serious, the V.I.P.D. said.

The police force said the discharge of a firearm into the air in celebration could cause serious harm. The intention may be a celebratory shot toward the sky, but the consequences can be disastrous for a neighbor or someone blocks away, because as the saying goes, "What goes up must come down," the V.I.P.D. warned. A projectile shot into the air can come down and hit someone unintentionally.

The VIPD said it is committed to zero tolerance of illegal gun use. "Our mission is to protect the quality of life for all residents throughout the community by creating an environment of enhanced safety and security. To that end, we will be deploying officers in specific areas of the territory that have the highest amount of illegal gun activity in recent years," according to a V.I.P.D. statement.

"If you are thinking about discharging your firearm to celebrate the coming of the new year, we urge you not to," the V.I.P.D. warned. "The dangers and consequences are too great. Let us continue to have a safe festive season."

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