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ST. CROIX VITRAN SERVICES DISRUPTED DUE TO APPARENT EMPLOYEE SICKOUT

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The Department of Public Works (DPW) is notifying the public of an apparent sickout involving Virgin Islands Transit (VITRAN) bus operators and custodial staff in the St. Croix district. All but two St. Croix VITRAN mass transit bus operators and utility workers called out sick on Thursday, December 19, and Friday, December 20, in what appears to be a coordinated action.

DPW officials were not informed of this action in advance and remain unaware of the reasons behind it.

"We regret that this action has occurred during the holiday and Crucian Christmas Festival seasons, a time when reliable transportation is especially important for our community," said Commissioner Derek Gabriel.

This unexpected disruption has significantly impacted VITRAN's ability to serve our community's most vulnerable members, including elderly and disabled individuals who rely on ADA/Paratransit services. Despite ongoing discussions to establish a contingency plan, no resolution has been finalized at this time.

The Department of Public Works remains committed to engaging in open dialogue with St. Croix mass transit bus operators and other affected staff to address their concerns and restore essential transportation services as quickly as possible.

DPW appreciates the public's understanding during this challenging time and will provide updates as they become available.

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