



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

**ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
DUE TO THE NEED TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FROM EXTREME INTERNAL VIOLENCE
AND IMMINENT DANGER**

WHEREAS, Title 23, Section 1005(a), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the responsibility for meeting the dangers to the Territory and people presented by emergencies or major disasters; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2015, there have been a series of shootings resulting in death and severe personal injury to persons in the Territory; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2015, such shootings resulting in severe personal injury continued; and

WHEREAS, resulting from the events of September 4 and 5, 2015, there is imminent internal threat to the safety of the residents and visitors of the Territory and to public order creating extreme danger; and

WHEREAS, Title 23, Section 1005(d), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the authority to declare a State of Emergency if it is determined that an emergency or major disaster has occurred or is imminent;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Osbert E. Potter, Acting Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby **DECLARE** as follows:

1. A State of Emergency throughout the Virgin Islands of the United States effective September 5, 2015, and that such State of Emergency shall continue in effect until further Order of the Governor;
2. In conjunction with this State of Emergency, all Territorial Peace officers are hereby deputized as law enforcement officers of the Virgin Islands specifically to perform public safety functions as required by the Governor before, during, and after his State of Emergency, and each shall report immediately to the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Police Department, or his designated representative on each island for the purpose of executing the Governor's orders and executive decisions.
3. The Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Police Department shall have all authority to mobilize and direct all Territorial Peace Officers to meet the mandates of this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands this 5th day of September, A.D., 2015.



A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Osbert E. Potter
Acting Governor