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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GOVERNOR MAPP SIGNS A PROCLAMATION
TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
63rd ANNIVERSARY OF CARNIVAL IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

The United States Virgin Islands will be celebrating the 63rd anniversary of Carnival. The theme for this year is *Culture to the Extreme, V.I. Carnival 2015*". The Virgin Islands' Carnival has become one of the region's top festivals, attracting thousands of people to the islands. The name of this year's Carnival Village is *Grapo's Art Gallery*" honoring Cleve "Grapo" Turnbull.

This year's Virgin Islands' Carnival Food, Arts and Crafts Fair is named the *Alvin's Cultural Workshop* honoring Alvin Turnbull. It will be held on **Wednesday, April 29, 2015** in the Emancipation Garden.

J'Ouvert will be held on **Thursday, April 30, 2015**.

The Children's Carnival Parade will be held on **Friday, May 1, 2015**, and the Adult's Parade will be held on **Saturday, May 2, 2015**.

During this historical and festive season hundreds of families, friends, visitors, and supporters will be visiting the Territory to enjoy and partake of our cultural activities, and the sights and sounds of Carnival. This annual celebration provides a tremendous financial boost to our economy and helps to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Carnival and our culture.

"Today I signed a proclamation to authorize Commissioners and Agency Heads to grant Administrative Leave to non-essential employees, in order to encourage greater participation in the Food Fair, and to enhance the celebration of the Virgin Islands Carnival by all residents and visitors, as follows":

DISTRICT OF ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN ONLY (ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE)

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 - Food, Arts and Crafts Fair Day – 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 30, 2015 – J’Ouvert – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TERRITORY-WIDE (ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE):

Friday, May 1, 2015 – Children’s Parade Day – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The leave granted shall not apply to essential employees and employees on a regular or rotating shift. Employees on annual or sick leave immediately preceding or immediately following the time period administrative leave is granted, will not receive administrative leave. Future leave will not be granted to employees who are considered essential and/or whose shift happens to fall on a day in which other employees are granted administrative leave.” Stated Governor Mapp

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