



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact:

Richard Motta Jr.

340-474-2399

www.vi.gov

richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov

Statement from Governor Albert Bryan Jr. on the Tragic Death of a Young Resident of Savan

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS -- Today, my heart is heavy. Like so many Virgin Islanders, I am deeply saddened and disturbed by the tragic loss of a 15-year-old child whose life was cut short by senseless gun violence in the Savan community.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, classmates, teachers, and all those who loved him.

This tragedy strikes particularly close to home for me. I grew up in Savan. I walked those streets as a young boy. I knew a neighborhood where families looked out for one another, where children played freely, and where hope was stronger than fear.

To witness the reality that our young people face today compared to the community I remember is heartbreaking. No parent should have to bury a child. No neighborhood should have to endure the pain of seeing its children become victims of violence. And no society can accept the loss of its young people as normal.

While law enforcement will continue its efforts to bring those responsible to justice, we must also confront the larger issue before us. This is not simply a policing problem. It is a community problem. It is a family problem. It is a societal problem. It demands that all of us—government, parents, educators, faith leaders, and community members—work together to reclaim our neighborhoods and create opportunities, hope, and safe spaces for our youth.

We cannot allow another generation of children to grow up believing that violence is an inevitable part of life. We owe them better. We owe this young man better.

Tonight, I ask all Virgin Islanders to keep this family in your prayers. Let us mourn this devastating loss, but let us also recommit ourselves to building communities where our children can grow, dream, and thrive without fear.

May God comfort this family during their unimaginable grief, and may He guide us as we work to end the cycle of violence that continues to rob us of our most precious resource—our children.

Governor Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor of the United States Virgin Islands