



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001**

**TO CELEBRATE THE RECOGNITION OF  
THE GUAINIA TAINO TRIBE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Guainía Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands is a Native American tribal entity, formalized in the United States Virgin Islands in July 2012, to strive to protect and preserve the culture, and promote the socio-economic welfare of the descendants of the Taino Indian Peoples who settled in the Virgin Islands and the wider Caribbean before the first encounter with Europeans; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the one-year anniversary of the recognition proclamation dated June 28<sup>th</sup> 2021, that established eligibility for federal health benefits, federal education benefits, housing benefits, job training, land use, and the right to engage in traditional religious practices and ceremonies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guainía Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands is composed of well-mannered and friendly people that have always been known for their peaceful demeanor and diplomacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guainía Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands continues to preserve and promote Taino culture, history, religion, traditions, institutions, tribal government, language; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Confederation of Taino People recognized the Guainía Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands on December 2, 2012, to, whenever possible implement joint or mutual support of any cultural and economic exchange programs and to hold intertribal meetings between these indigenous representative institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the tribal membership of the Guainía Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands, as attested by their signatures, and in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, formally conferred on Maekiaphan Phillips the rank and honor of Kasike (Chief) and Chairwoman of the Guainía Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands' Tribal Council on November 1, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the Authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby celebrate the recognition of the Guainía Taino Tribe of the Virgin Islands as an indigenous American Indian Tribe of the Virgin Islands.

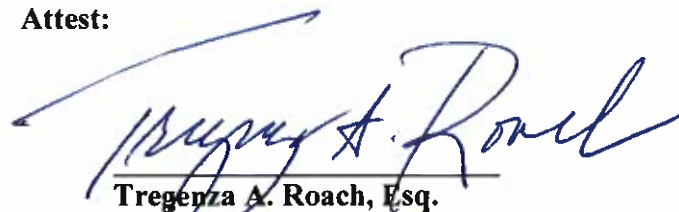
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, A.D. 2022.



**Albert Bryan Jr.**  
Governor



**Attest:**



**Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.**  
Lieutenant Governor