



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 301707

ST. THOMAS, USVI 00803-1707

September 25, 2015

Hon. Myron Jackson
Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
P.O. Box 1690
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

Dear Senator Jackson,

I am writing in response to your letter dated September 23, 2015. Thank you for inviting me to participate in your next committee hearing on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation scheduled for September 29, 2015.

In your letter, you ask me to provide testimony on the Virgin Islands Port Authority's (the "Authority") position regarding future plans to expand the West Indian Company's ("WICO") docking facilities and how it will coincide with the Authority and Crown Bay facility revitalization efforts now ongoing or planned for the Charlotte Amalie town area.

Early on, the Authority agreed to partner in WICO's initial plans for additional berths. WICO subsequently suspended its plans to add berths. The Authority's Governing Board has since taken the position that the Authority explore the possibility of adding an additional pier(s) in the Crown Bay area. Representatives from the Authority and WICO met to discuss the issue.

Thereafter, WICO's Governing Board approved a joint venture between the Authority and WICO to retain a consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study of Crown Bay and its surrounding areas to accomplish the goals of construction of an additional cruise ship pier to better serve the U.S. Virgin Islands. The RFP was prepared and released. Responses to the RFP were evaluated by a bid evaluation committee ("BEC"). Representatives from the Authority and WICO were on that committee. I expect that the committee's recommendation will be made shortly.

The Authority's Governing Board has not taken a position with regards to future plans to expand WICO's docking facilities. However, I will provide the Authority's Governing Board with a copy of your letter dated September 29, 2015 as well as my response. In my opinion, the decision to expand WICO's piers rests with WICO and its Governing Board.

Sincerely,

Carlton Dowe
Executive Director

PHONE: (340) 774-1629

FAX: (340) 774-0025