

**VIRGIN ISLANDS WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT BEFORE THE**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, YOUTH & RECREATION**  
**JUNE 13, 2016**

1 Good Afternoon, Honorable Chairman Jackson, other Honorable Members of the Senate  
2 Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation and the 31<sup>th</sup> Legislature, and to  
3 the viewing and listening audience. It is a pleasure to appear before you to inform and update  
4 the Legislature, our colleagues, and the general public on the activities of the Virgin Islands Waste  
5 Management Authority (Authority) as it relates to today's discussion.

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7 For the record, I am Mario Leonard, Solid Waste Director for the STT/STJ/WI district of the  
8 Authority representing the Interim Executive Director, Mr. Steven Aubin, who is unable to attend  
9 today's hearing.

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11 On February 5, 2016, your committee invited the Authority to report on Coki Point Beach on St.  
12 Thomas, including maintenance, security, visitor and resident experience, and rules and  
13 regulations. Representing Ms. May Adams Cornwall, I reported that the Authority provides  
14 waste collection and disposal services in the Smith Bay Community for residential house to  
15 house collection of trash for residences of three (3) units or less.

16  
17 The Authority also provides assistance to the Department of Sports, Park and Recreation and  
18 other entities such as the Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service at the University of the Virgin  
19 Islands during V.I. Coast Week and the Smith Bay Community Action Foundation, Inc., during  
20 their annual Labor Day Extravaganza & Parade. We are currently working on a solid waste  
21 collection solution to substitute for the 20 yards bins which were removed from the Smith Bay  
22 Road that will benefit the Smith Bay basin.

23  
24 Residential properties of four (4) units or more and business and commercial properties are  
25 required to provide for collection and transport of their solid waste to the Bovoni Landfill  
26 pursuant to V.I. Code Title 19, Chapter 54, section 1554(i) and section 1555(e). Thus, the  
27 businesses at Coki Point or their landlord, in this case, Sports, Parks and Recreation is

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28 responsible for collection and transport of solid waste generated at the beach. The Authority,  
29 through its enforcement unit, periodically ensures compliance with the law.

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31 At the direction of your committee, the Authority attended Coki Point task force meetings that  
32 were chaired by Tourism Commissioner, Ms Beverly Nicholson Doty. Following the first  
33 meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>, we visited the beach along with members from the other agencies to  
34 assess the situation. Following the visit, I requested the Authority's enforcement officers to  
35 conduct a site visit to identify the businesses and determine whether they contracted with a  
36 private hauler to collect and transport their solid waste or if they collected and self-hauled to  
37 the landfill. The site visit was completed on March 1, 2016. The officers determined that of 14  
38 businesses, five (5) were serviced by Sports, Park and Recreation, eight (8) were serviced by Bio  
39 Wave, a hauling company that provides a 20 yard bin for the collective businesses for a monthly  
40 fee and one (1) business self-hauls. The bin is collected every two to three days by Biowave and  
41 transported to the Bovoni Landfill. These findings were reported to the taskforce at the March  
42 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

43

44 In summary, the Authority is not responsible for the collection and transportation of solid waste  
45 from Coki Point. This is the responsibility of Sports, Parks and Recreation as landlord, or  
46 individual businesses who either contract with a private hauler or self-haul. However, the  
47 Authority's enforcement unit will visit businesses to determine whether they are compliant with  
48 the law. The Authority does however, provide assistance to various agencies and nonprofits as  
49 needed by request.

50

51 Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the Committee. I am prepared to  
52 answer any questions you may have.

53

54 END