

**Presentation of Attorney General Claude E. Walker  
Committee on Rules and Judiciary  
Thirty-First Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture and Planning  
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers, St. Thomas, VI  
November 22, 2016**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Senators, legislative staff, and to those of you in the listening and viewing audience. My name is Claude Earl Walker and I am the Virgin Islands Attorney General. I am honored to be here today to offer a brief statement regarding the federal government's decision to suspend funding for the St. Thomas Downtown Revitalization Project—a fact that was outlined in the November 7, 2016, letter sent from James Christian, the Division Administrator, to Commissioners James and Bennett.

Since my taking office last year, it has been my steadfast commitment for the Department of Justice to appear in front of this Legislature whenever it is called upon and to always offer a well-researched, legally-sound, and comprehensive testimony. Unfortunately, given the particularities, legal status, and attorney-client privileged information regarding this matter, I must keep my remarks, as well as any answers to questions the members of this Committee may have very limited in scope.

With that, I want to thank the Committee for the invitation to appear before it today, and, to the extent possible, I will now be glad to answer those questions I am able to. Thank you.