

Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency



FY2017 Budget Hearing Response

I. Janitorial Service: Full Time staff vs. Janitorial Contract

VITEMA's senior staff evaluated the cost effectiveness of getting a new janitorial contract versus implementing a General Maintenance Worker position. Our analysis confirmed that hiring these new staff members would produce a cost savings of approximately \$14,000 annually. Although we understand that terminating the contract still affects the local economy, implementing cost saving practices for the agency remains our priority.

II. Background Checks

VITEMA has experienced difficulty in the timely processing of background checks for the 911 staff due to the fact that VITEMA does not fall within the Public Safety arm of government. This re-classification should be a priority. It was recommended by the Senate that we (1) seek a bill that generates an MOA with VIPD or (2) seek a contract with a government agency to conduct the background checks.

a. MOA with VIPD

VITEMA and VIPD's senior leadership discussed the execution of an MOA between VIPD and VITEMA to conduct background checks. VIPD emailed us a draft MOU to update and revise. This is in now in process.

b. Contract with Other Government Agencies

VITEMA has been in contact with Mrs. Gumbs, Confidential Secretary, with the Department of Justice, and their office can provide background checks. Her recommendation is that we focus on the MOA with VIPD and table any other contracts with other government agencies at this moment. We learned that the Department of Justice has the software/system available to provide the same checks performed by VIPD, which includes the NCIC report. Their system is currently undergoing maintenance but their office will work with us to review the MOA with VIPD for legal sufficiency and can be considered a back up to VIPD when needed.

III. Fire Boat: VI Fire Service

VITEMA's senior staff has communicated with Director Joseph, VIFS. Based on our conversation, VIFS know what type of boat they need and they do have a docking, training and maintenance plan for the boat. VIFS submitted their preliminary information to us.

IV. Department of Public Works (DPW) - Public Assistance Projects

DPW recently requested extensions on projects. We are still waiting on approval from FEMA. DPW encountered budgetary constraints when the bids for their projects came in over the projected amount. FEMA granted the extra funds to complete the projects but will hold DPW to the agreed upon deadline dates.

V. Emergency Management Scholarship with the Board of Education

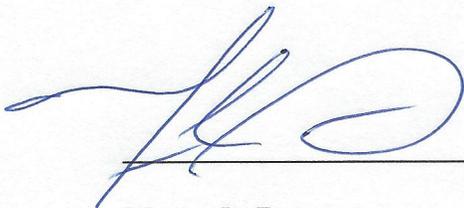
Communication was made with the Board of Education to discuss Act #7636 for the Emergency Management Scholarship Fund that creates an annual scholarship for the Virgin Islands students studying emergency management. Ms. Rhymer of Financial Aid is looking into the process to access the funds. VITEMA is on their calendar to meet and discuss appropriation and the course of action to be taken in preparation for the upcoming academic year.

VI. Juan F. Luis Hospital Generator Maintenance Plan

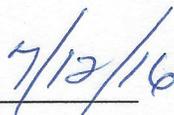
According to the Acting CEO, Mr. Evangelista, JFL is in the middle of the RFP process to secure the generator. Upon acquisition, JFL will enter into a monthly preventative maintenance contract with the authorized vendor. Service records will be maintained and will be readily available once requested for auditing purposes.

VII. WAPA updates

A request was made to the Executive Director to include the Senate President/Legislature in their call down when sending out important information. We were directed to Ms. Jerain Fleming, Public Information Manager for WAPA. She confirmed that the Senate President and the Legislature have been added to the call down and media list to receive any emergency or pertinent information in a timely manner.



Mona L. Barnes
Director



Date