

**PEDRO CRUZ, COMMISSIONER - DSPR  
PROPOSED FY 2017 GENERAL BUDGET  
TESTIMONY**

GOOD MORNING HONORABLE CLIFFORD GRAHAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, HONORABLE SENATORS, CENTRAL STAFF, LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE.

MY NAME IS PEDRO CRUZ, COMMISSIONER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION (DSPR). I AM BEFORE YOU TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED FY 2017 GENERAL BUDGET.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND INTRODUCE MY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF, RESPECTIVELY: MR. CALVERT WHITE – DISTRICT OF ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN/WATER ISLAND, MR. CRAIG WILLIAMS – DISTRICT OF ST. CROIX, MR. ELROY HILL DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ST. JOHN, MS. ALCENTA DEWINDT- FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGER, AND MS. ANITA JOSEPH – PERSONNEL RELATIONS ADMINISTRATOR.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION, PURSUANT TO TITLE 3 CHAPTER 18, TITLE 21 CHAPTER 1 AND TITLE 32 CHAPTERS 1, 2, 9 AND 11 OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE, ADMINISTERS, COORDINATES AND SERVES AS THE "STATE AGENCY" FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATING IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS WITH DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL PROGRAMS PERTAINING TO SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION; INCLUDING DIRECT OVERSIGHT OVER PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION'S VISION IS TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF ATHLETES AND RESIDENTS THROUGH SPORTS, PHYSICAL FITNESS, RECREATION, AFTER SCHOOL, SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS, AND ULTIMATELY TO DEVELOP A HEALTHIER, RESPECTFUL, AND RESPECTED SOCIETY.

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION IS TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE DIVERSE SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS, TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL FITNESS, TO PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY EXPANDING THESE PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORY. THIS MISSION INVOLVES HOSTING SPORTS CLINICS, TRAININGS, ORIENTATIONS, AND SPORTS EDUCATIVE PRESENTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY. THROUGH THESE VENUES THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROMOTE AND INSTILL THE GOOD DISCIPLINE OF SELF RELIANCE, POSITIVE HUMAN VALUES, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A HEALTHY MIND AND BODY.

DSPR HAS DEVELOPED STRATEGIC GOALS TO MEET THE VISION AND TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS OR MEASURES INCLUDE PROMOTING OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS, ENHANCING FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS FOR COMMUNITY USE, ENTERTAINMENT, ELIMINATING STRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES, AND ENSURING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PUBLIC. TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN ALL FACILITIES, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACES TO OPTIMUM STANDARD AND TO HAVE A BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM TO ENHANCE ALL THE AREAS THAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

FURTHERMORE, DSPR CONTRIBUTES TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY THROUGH THE FACILITATION OF PARKS FOR SPORTS TOURISM, LOCAL EVENTS, AND OTHER FORMS OF RECREATION FOR LOCALS AND VISITORS.

**THE DEPARTMENT IS ORGANIZED INTO THREE (3) DIVISIONS:**

1. **PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND BEAUTIFICATION:** THIS DIVISION OVERSEES THE MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES, PUBLIC PARKS, BEACHES, OPEN SPACES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS THAT ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.
2. **THE DIVISION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION:** ORGANIZES, PROMOTES, COORDINATES, CONDUCTS, AND ASSISTS IN DIVERSE SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL.
3. **THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER:** ADMINISTERS FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, HUMAN RESOURCES, AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS.

THE PROPOSED FY 2017 GENERAL BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION IS \$7,033,166.00 (SEVEN-MILLION-THIRTY-THREE-THOUSAND-ONE-HUNDRED-SIXTY-SIX DOLLARS).

IT CONSISTS OF \$5,352,882.00 (FIVE-MILLION-THREE-HUNDRED-FIFTY-TWO-THOUSAND-EIGHT HUNDRED-EIGHTY-TWO DOLLARS) OR 76% FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES, DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS: \$3,441,979.00 (THREE-MILLION-FOUR-HUNDRED-FORTY-ONE-THOUSAND-NINE-HUNDRED-SEVENTY-NINE DOLLARS), WHICH REPRESENTS 49% FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND \$1,910,903.00 (ONE-MILLION-NINE-HUNDRED-TEN-THOUSAND-NINE-HUNDRED-THREE DOLLARS) OR 27% FOR FRINGE BENEFITS. \$905,480.00 (NINE-HUNDRED-FIVE-THOUSAND-FOUR-HUNDRED-EIGHTY DOLLARS) OR 13% FOR OPERATION EXPENSES, WHICH IS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS: \$433,516.00 (FOUR-HUNDRED-THIRTY-THREE-THOUSAND-FIVE-HUNDRED-SIXTEEN DOLLARS) OR 6% FOR SUPPLIES AND \$471,964.00 (FOUR-HUNDRED-SEVENTY-ONE-THOUSAND-NINE-HUNDRED-SIXTY-FOUR DOLLARS) OR 7% FOR OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES. FOR UTILITY

EXPENSES: \$774,804.00 (SEVEN-HUNDRED-SEVENTY-FOUR-THOUSAND-EIGHT-HUNDRED-FOUR DOLLARS) OR 11% OF THE BUDGET.

ALSO, INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION FY 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET IS THE MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,224,700.00 (ONE-MILLION-TWO-HUNDRED-TWENTY-FOUR-THOUSAND-SEVEN-HUNDRED DOLLARS), WHICH IS DIRECTLY TO ASSIST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. **GRANTS DISBURSEMENT IS ATTACHED ON EXHIBIT—A**

THE DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTING TO RECEIVE A LAND, WATER, AND CONSERVATION GRANT, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. THESE FUNDS ARE TO BE UTILIZED TO ASSIST IN THE UPGRADE OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION ALSO MANAGES NON-APPROPRIATED FUNDS THAT ARE IDENTIFIED AS FOLLOW:

- **CASINO REVENUE FUND:** THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES A QUARTERLY ALLOTMENT FROM THE CASINO REVENUE FUND, WHICH IS UTILIZED FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS THROUGH WHICH WE PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO MANY YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. IT ALSO ASSISTS IN FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT’S AFTER SCHOOL AND ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS. IN FY 2015, WE RECEIVED \$170,510.72 (ONE-HUNDRED-SEVENTY-THOUSAND-FIVE-HUNDRED-TEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-TWO CENTS), AND FOR THE PAST THREE QUARTERS OF FY 2016 WE HAVE RECEIVED \$103,721.26 (ONE-HUNDRED-THREE-THOUSAND-SEVEN-HUNDRED-TWENTY-ONE-DOLLARS AND TWENTY-SIX CENTS). **THE REPORT IS ATTACHED ON EXHIBIT – A**
- **TERRITORIAL PARK FUND:** IS DERIVED THROUGH THE COLLECTION OF PARKS’ FEES, RENTALS, AND CHARGES FOR THE USE OR OPERATION OF FACILITIES,

CONCESSIONS, OPEN SPACES, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT ARE UNDER THE DSPR JURISDICTION.

LAST FISCAL YEAR WE COLLECTED \$306,412.50 (THREE-HUNDRED-SIX-THOUSAND-FOUR-HUNDRED-TWELVE DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS). THIS YEAR TO DATE FOR FY 2016 WE HAVE COLLECTED \$225,116.19 (TWO-HUNDRED-TWENTY-FIVE-THOUSAND-ONE-HUNDRED-SIXTEEN DOLLARS AND NINETEEN CENTS).

- **ATHLETICS FUND:** IS DERIVED FROM THE COLLECTION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS FEES. IN FY 2015 WE COLLECTED \$70,695.00 (SEVENTY-THOUSAND-SIX-HUNDRED-NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS), AND FOR THE PAST NINE MONTHS OF THIS FISCAL YEAR WE HAVE COLLECTED \$20,123.00(TWENTY-THOUSAND-ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-THREE DOLLARS).

DSPR HAS NINETY-ONE (91) VENDOR SPACES, TERRITORY WIDE, OF WHICH FORTY-EIGHT (48) ARE ON THE DISTRICT OF ST. CROIX AND FORTY-THREE (43) ON THE DISTRICT OF ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN/WATER ISLAND. THROUGH THESE SPACES THE DEPARTMENT GENERATES ON AVERAGE, REVENUES OF \$104,830.00 (ONE-HUNDRED-FOUR-THOUSAND-EIGHT-HUNDRED-THIRTY-DOLLARS) PER ANNUM. **ATTACHED ON EXHIBIT—A** IS THE TERRITORIAL PARKS AND ATHLETICS FUNDS, VENDORS' SPACES, AND FACILITIES' RENTAL FEES REPORTS OF BOTH DISTRICTS.

LAST YEAR I REPORTED THAT DSPR WAS FACING A CRITICAL SITUATION DUE TO SHORTAGE OF STAFF. TODAY I AM VERY, BUT VERY PLEASED TO SAY THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, TO THE WHOLE BODY OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE, AND TO GOVERNOR KENNETH E. MAPP FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF OUR PETITION.

WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE NEEDED MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS, WHICH HELPED THE DEPARTMENT TO BE MORE EFFICIENT IN

MAINTAINING PARKS AND FACILITIES. HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL IN URGENT NEED OF TWO GARBAGE TRUCKS, TWO-STAKE-BODY-TRUCKS, ONE TRACTOR, AND SIX FIFTEEN-PASSENGERS VANS IN ORDER TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY EFFICIENTLY AND FULLY COMPLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S MANDATE.

THE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION WE WERE GIVEN PREVIOUSLY HAS TREMENDOUSLY HELPED TO ENHANCE THE EMPLOYEES' MORAL AND GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. I CAN SAY, WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT CURRENTLY WE HAVE A MUCH BETTER WORKING ENVIRONMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO HIRE EMPLOYEES AND ALLIVIAE THE HEAVY BURDEN THAT WAS NEGATIVELY IMPACTING DSPR EMPLOYEES.

HOWEVER, I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND EXPRESS MY UTMOST THANKS TO THE DSPR EMPLOYEES. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF WHOM HAVE SHOWN TRUE COMMITMENT BY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO KEEP THE DEPARTMENT FLOWING, IN SPIE OF THEIR LOW PAY OR SALARY.

DSPR CONTINUES WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE SERVICES. DURING FY 2016 DSPR HIRED: IN ST. JOHN – ONE RECREATION OFFICER, ONE RECREATION LEADER, AND GOT A GENERAL MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE. ST. JOHN NOW HAS SEVEN EMPLOYEES AND IS ON THE ROAD DOING MAINTENANCE, INCREASING SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS, AND OPENING NEW DOORS BY DEVELOPING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

IN ST. THOMAS WE HIRED: ONE PART-TIME CUSTODIAL WORKER, ONE PART-TIME GENERAL MAINTENANCE, TWO RECREATION LEADERS, ONE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND PRESENTLY WE ARE INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES TO FILL ANOTHER GENERAL MAINTENANCE POSITION. WE ALSO HAVE TWO VACANCIES TO HIRE ONE LIFEGUARD AND A FINANCIAL SPECIALIST.

IN ST. CROIX WE HIRED: ONE FACILITY MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR, ONE SUPERVISOR OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, ONE GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER, ONE CASH COLLECTOR RECEPTIONIST, ONE OFFICE GENERAL SECRETARY, ONE SPORTS SPECIALIST, ONE PART-TIME MECHANIC, AND ONE PART-TIME CUSTODIAL WORKER.

PRESENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT IS MOST IN NEED OF EIGHT LIFEGUARDS TO ATTEND OUR BEACHES EFFICIENTLY. I MUST POINT OUT THAT THE LIFEGUARDS ARE MANDATORY IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH OUTDOOR BEACH SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ON CRUISE SHIP DAYS, WHEN WE HAVE OVER ONE HUNDRED (100) PEOPLE IN THE BEACH AT THE SAME TIME. FOR EXAMPLE: COKI POINT AND FORT FREDERICK BEACHES ARE IN GREAT DEMAND AND IN MOST OF THE INSTANCES, WE HAVE THE PRESENCE OF ONLY ONE LIFEGUARD.

ADDITIONALLY, THE CUSTODIAL WORKERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. THEY MAINTAIN CLEANLINESS AND A HEALTHY HYGIENIC ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR PUBLIC RESTROOMS AND FACILITIES. THEREFORE, OUR INTENTION IS TO PROMOTE THE PART-TIME CUSTODIAL WORKERS TO FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.

HOWEVER, WE NEED TO HIRE FIVE OTHER CUSTODIAL WORKERS IN ORDER TO BE MORE EFFICIENT AND TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAIN THE FACILITIES IN A TIMELY MANNER. IN THE DISTRICT OF ST.THOMAS/ST. JOHN/WATER ISLAND, WE HAVE TWO FULL-TIME CUSTODIAL WORKERS AND ONE PART-TIME CUSTODIAL WORKER TO MAINTAIN NINETEEN FACILITIES WITH SIXTY-FOUR RESTROOM STALLS, AND THIRTY-FIVE OPEN ROOMS. IN ST. CROIX WE HAVE THREE CUSTODIAL WORKERS AND ONE PART-TIME CUSTODIAL WORKER TO MAINTAIN SIXTEEN FACILITIES WITH ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN RESTROOM STALLS,

AND SIXTY-FOUR OPEN ROOMS. I ASK FOR YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION ON THIS MATTER.

DUE TO THE EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT I HAVE TO REPORT HERE, I HAVE **ATTACHED ON EXHIBIT—B** A REPORT OF THE NEWLY HIRED AND ADDITIONAL STAFF THAT ARE NEEDED TO MEET THE DEPARTMENT'S DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION ON A TIMELY BASIS AS IT IS REQUIRED.

DSPR HAS A TOTAL OF ONE-HUNDRED-SIXTEEN (116) EMPLOYEES TERRITORY WIDE: NINETY-TWO (92) CLASSIFIED, TWENTY (20) EXEMPT, AND FOUR PART-TIME. IN ST. THOMAS WE HAVE FIFTY-TWO (52) EMPLOYEES: FORTY-TWO (42) CLASSIFIED, EIGHT EXEMPT, AND TWO PART-TIME (ONE IN WATER ISLAND). IN ST. JOHN WE HAVE SEVEN EMPLOYEES: SIX CLASSIFIED AND ONE EXEMPT. IN ST. CROIX WE HAVE FIFTY-SEVEN (57) EMPLOYEES: FORTY-FOUR (44) CLASSIFIED, ELEVEN (11) EXEMPT, AND TWO PART-TIME. DURING FY 2016 TWO EMPLOYEES RETIRED, ONE RESIGNED, AND ONE WAS DISMISSED.

AS WE LOOK BACK AT THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THE DEPARTMENT HAS ACHIEVED. WE HAVE CONTROLLED THE DEPARTMENT'S ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, WHICH HAS PERMITTED US TO BE MORE CONSISTENT IN REPAIRING AND MAINTAINING PARKS, FACILITIES, AND MACHINERIES.

DURING THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, DSPR HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE. WE HAVE REBUILT, RENOVATED, REFURBISHED, ENHANCED PARKS, FACILITIES, OPEN SPACES, AND PROGRAMS, TERRITORY WIDE:

**DISTRICT OF ST. CROIX: -- CRAMER'S PARK BEACH FACILITY:** WE INSTALLED NEW FACE BASINS, TOILET DIVIDERS, VANITIES, PLUMBINGS FIXTURES, SHOWER

VALVES, LAMPS, LIGHTS ON POLES, 30 AMPS BREAKERS, OUTLETS, AND REFURBISHED THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.

- **FORT FREDERICK BEACH FACILITY:** INSTALLED TWO EXTERIOR SHOWERS, REFURBISHED AND PAINTED THE RESTROOMS.
- **D.C. CANEGATA SOFTBALL PARK:** REPLACED ALL BALL-PARK LIGHTS WITH NEW LIGHT FIXTURES AND BALLASTS, REPLACED PRESS BOX, DUGOUTS AND BLEACHERS GALVANIZED ROOFS, REFURBISHED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, AND WELDED PLAQUES TO REINFORCE BLEACHERS' METAL COLUMNS.
- **D.C. CANEGATA BASEBALL PARK:** FABRICATED AND INSTALLED DIAMOND METAL FENCE ON WINDOW SPACES IN BLEACHERS PAVILION, BUILT AND INSTALLED TWO STORAGE ROOM 4' X 8' WOODEN DOORS. INSTALLED TWO CONCESSION ROLLING DOORS 14' X 8' AND 10' X 8', FABRICATED AND INSTALLED METAL GATE AT MAIN ENTRANCE, AND TWO NEW CYCLONE FENCE GATES. INSTALLED PERIMETER FENCE, REFURBISHED PITCHERS' BULLPENS, AND WELDED 450ft METAL PLAQUES ON BLEACHERS METAL FLOOR. PRESENTLY, THE FLOOR IS BEING PAINTED. REFURBISHED THE ROOF AND PAINTED THE STRUCTURES OF STADIUM. PREPARED AND MODIFIED THE BALL-FIELD TO MEET LITTLE LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND INSTALLED NEW LIGHT BULBS ON PARK AND FACILITY.
- **RUDY KRIEGER COMPLEX:** REFURBISHED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND REPLACED BALL PARK BULBS, FUSES, AND BALLASTS.
- **PEDRO "PEI" CRUZ BALLPARK:** FABRICATED AND INSTALLED TWO METAL GATES, INSTALLED PERIMETER FENCE, REBUILT DUGOUTS WALLS, PRESS BOX WOODEN STEPS, PAINTED CONCESSION, DUGOUTS, PRESS BOX AND WOODEN STEPS.
- **ISAAC BOYNES BALLPARK:** INSTALLED FABRICATED METAL GATE IN MAIN ENTRANCE, THREE CYCLONE FENCE GATES, REBUILT PRESS BOX FLOOR AND WOODEN STEPS, RE-INFORCED BLEACHERS, PAINTED CONCESSION, BLEACHERS, PRESS BOX AND WOODEN STEPS.

- **RENHOLDT JACKSON COMPLEX:** CONVERTED A STORAGE AND SHOWER ROOM INTO A CHILDREN’S RECREATION CENTER TO CONDUCT AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS, INSTALLED NEW GALVANIZED ON DUGOUTS’ ROOFS, BUILT RAMPS ON RESTROOMS ENTRANCE, PAINTED CHILDREN RECREATION CENTER, DUGOUTS, PRESS BOX AND CONCESSION.

**DISTRICT OF ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN/WATER ISLAND: - MILTON “MILT” NEWTON BASKETBALL COURT:** ENHANCED COURT, CONCESSION, AND REDEDICATED.

- **KIRWAN TERRACE BALLPARK:** COMPLETED FENCING BY INSTALLING 50FT PERIMETER FENCE AND REPLACING BALLPARK LIGHT BULBS IS IN PROCESS.
- **DORIS HODGE TENNIS AND PADDLE COURT:** BUILT A RETAINING CONCRETE WALL AND REPLACED LIGHT BULBS.
- **JOSEPH AUBAIN BALLPARK:** INSTALLED NEW PERIMETER FENCE AND CYCLONE FENCE GATES, BUILT AN OFFICE FOR THE STAFF AND A RECREATION ROOM FOR CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS, PAINTED ENTIRE OFFICE AND CHILDREN RECREATION ROOM.
- **COKI POINT BEACH:** INSTALLED SECURITY CAMERAS, PAINTED RESTROOMS AND WOODEN DECK, AND ASSIGNED A CUSTODIAL WORKER.
- **WINSTON RAYMO CENTER:** PAINTED BUILDING, INSTALLED POLES AND LIGHT FIXTURES ON BASKET BALL COURT AND PLAYGROUND.
- **CLINTON PHIPPS RACETRACK:** INSTALLED CYCLONE FENCE TO SECURE BLEACHERS AREA AND REFURBISHED MACHINERY TO MAINTAIN THE TRACK.
- **VALDEMAR HILL LOOKOUT:** ENHANCED THE RESTROOMS FACILITY.

**IN ST. JOHN:**

- **ORVILLE BROWN BASKETBALL COURT:** FABRICATED AND INSTALLED BREAKERS SECURITY PANEL ON BREAKER BOX.

- **WINSTON WELLS BALLPARK:** INSTALLED FABRICATED CYCLONE FENCE GATES AND FABRICATED METAL PANEL TO PROTECT BREAKERS BOX, UPGRADED DUGOUTS, INSTALLED PRESS BOX LAMPS, AND REFURBISHED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.
- **NATIONAL HISTORIC LITTLE LEAGUE BALLPARK:** REFURBISHED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND INSTALLED FABRICATED METAL PANEL TO SECURE BREAKERS BOX.
- **OPPENHEIMER BEACH FACILITY:** PROJECT BID WAS AWARDED AND IS IN CONTRACTING PROCESS RIGHT NOW.

WE ARE VERY THANKFUL TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY (PFA) FOR THE CONTINUOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE FUNDINGS WE RECEIVED FROM PFA, DSPR WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE THE ABOVE MENTIONED PROJECTS. ACTUALLY, DUE TO GOVERNOR MAPP AND PFA ASSISTANCE WE WERE ABLE TO UPGRADE THE D.C. CANEGATA BASEBALL PARK AND GET IT READY FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR JULY 15, 2016.

**PENDING PROJECTS ARE: --- ST. THOMAS:** THE ALVIN MCBEAN COMPLEX IS IN THE REPROGRAMMED FUNDS TO REBUILD GATES, FENCE, AND BATTING CAGE.

**ST. JOHN:** IN THE REPROGRAMMED FUNDS PACKAGE, WE HAVE CRUZ BAY RECREATION CENTER AND DSPR OFFICE FOR RECONSTRUCTION, AND TO BUILD A RESTROOM AND PRESS BOX IN WINSTON WELLS BALLPARK.

**WATER ISLAND:** HONEYMOON BEACH FACILITY IS ALSO IN THE REPROGRAMMED FUNDS PACKAGE—TO BUILD ADEQUATE RESTROOMS AND BEACH FACILITY TO MEET THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CONSTRUCTION CODE, THE ADA COMPLIANCE, AND THE DAILY PUBLIC DEMAND.

**ST. CROIX:** HORACE CLARK BALLPARK IS IN THE BIDDING PROCESS FOR RECONSTRUCTUION. PENDING ALSO ARE TWO RECREATION CENTERS, ONE FOR ESTATE CALQUHOUN AND ONE FOR ESTATE BARREN SPOT. THE PLANS AND SCOPE

OF WORKS FOR BARREN SPOT IS IN PROCESS AND ALSO DOCUMENTS TO ACQUIRE THE LAND FOR CALQUHOUN CENTER.

TO FUND THE LISTED PROJECTS FOR ST. THOMAS, ST. JOHN, AND WATER ISLAND, WE WILL BE REQUESTING THAT MONIES FROM THE “COMMUNITY FACILITY TRUST FUNDS” BE REPROGRAMMED. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IF WE RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM THE WHOLE BODY OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE, WE WILL IMPROVE, ENHANCE, AND DELIVER A MORE PLEASANT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

ANOTHER PENDING PROJECT IS THE PAUL E. JOSEPH STADIUM/TERRENCE MARTIN SOFTBALL PARK/FESTIVAL VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION: DEMOLITION OF ALL STRUCTURES WAS COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY 13, 2016. EARLY LAST MONTH, THE GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS THAT WILL ALLOW THE DESIGN TEAM TO PLACE THE PEJ STADIUM ON THE RIGHT LOCATION WAS INITIATED. SIXTY PER CENT (60%) OF THE PLANS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW. ONCE THE DESIGN IS COMPLETED AND ACCEPTED, DETAILED CONSTRUCTION BUDGET WILL BE DEVELOPED. AN UPDATE REPORT IS ATTACHED ON **EXHIBIT – C**.

HOWEVER, BASED ON OUR CURRENT “TERRITORIAL FACILITIES ASSESSMENT” WE STILL HAVE TO UPGRADE, RENOVATE, AND/OR REBUILD PARKS AND FACILITIES TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM STANDARDS AND MEET THE REQUIRED DEMANDS.

I HAVE ATTACHED ON **EXHIBIT-C** THE FACILITIES ASSESSMENTS BY DISTRICT. NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD MENTION THOSE THAT NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:  
**ST. THOMAS:** ALVIN MCBEAN COMPLEX: **FACILITY– ESTIMATED COST \$25,000.00**  
**ST. JOHN:** RENOVATE TENNIS COURT /RESTROOMS–**ESTIMATED COST \$15,000.00**  
**WATER ISLAND:** HONEYMOON BEACH FACILITY--**ESTIMATED COST \$392,706.30**  
**STX:** PROFIT COMMUNITY CENTER--RESTROOMS/ROOF—**ESTIMATED \$25,500.00**

THERE IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THIS PARTICULAR FACILITY. THE WOMEN'S RESTROOM HAS BEEN OUT OF ORDER FOR YEARS. IT REQUIRES A NEW DRAINAGE LINE, AND THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR REPAIR ON THE HALLWAY ROOF WHICH HAS BEEN LEAKING FOR YEARS. THIS FACILITY NEEDS ATTENTION, **URGENTLY.**

AS I MENTIONED ON MY FY 2016 BUDGET TESTIMONY, DSPR WAS EXPERIENCING VANDALISM WITH THE PARKS' BREAKER BOXES. WE WERE ABLE TO CONTROL THAT PROBLEM; BUT RECENTLY, WE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT VANDALISM WHERE TEN (10) TOILETS, TANKS, AND FACE BASINS WERE DESTROYED AT THE D.C. CANEGATA SOFTBALL PARK RESTROOMS. FORTUNATELY, THE CARAVELLE HOTEL AND CASINO ASSISTED THE DEPARTMENT BY DONATING ALL TEN SETS OF TOILETS AND TANKS. SO, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK SENATOR ALMANDO "ROCKY" LIBURD FOR MAKING POSSIBLE THE CONNECTION WITH SAID COMPANY, AND ON BEHALF OF DSPR I EXPRESS THE DEEPEST GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO MR. JACK HEARON, WHO APPROVED THE DONATION.

I MUST MENTION THAT DSPR PRESENTLY HAS A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE RANDALL "DOC" JAMES RACE TRACK. IT IS A SERIOUS FINANCIAL CHALLENGE TO MAINTAIN THE RACE TRACK IN GOOD CONDITION IN ORDER TO KEEP LIVE RACES. I BELIEVE THAT, IT IS TIME TO COME TOGETHER AND SUPPORT THE HORSE RACING SPORT. DSPR NEEDS \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS) MONTHLY TO MAINTAIN THE TRACK IN GOOD STANDARD. WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORT THE HORSE RACING SPORT. THEREFORE, REALIZING THE GREAT CHALLENGE, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HORSEMAN ASSOCIATION, P&P, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AG-OFFICE, AND PORT AUTHORITY FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS ASSISTANCE. I WELCOME YOU ALL TO JOIN US IN THIS ENDEAVOR. ACTUALLY, THREE HORSE LIVE RACES HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED AND

FOUR MORE ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD, THE LAST ON DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2016. PLEASE CONSIDER THE RACE TRACK MAINTENANCE MONTHLY COST IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS FOR THE FY 2017. FOR THIS, I THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.

IN THE AREA OF SPORTS AND RECREATION WE HAVE MAINTAINED THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AND ASSISTED THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THROUGH OUR RECREATION LEADERS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR SEASON. ALSO, DSPR HAS DEVELOPED AND TAKEN THE "COMMUNITY CHILDREN FUN DAY" INTO THE RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES. IT WAS DONE ONCE A MONTH IN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES. IN ST. CROIX, WE STARTED IN D. C. CANEGATA BALLPARK-CHRISTIANSTED, THEN RUDY KREIGER COMPLEX, SION FARM, FOLLOWED BY PEDRO "PEI" CRUZ BALLPARK, ESTATE PROFIT, ESTATE CASTLE BURKE COMMUNITY CENTER PLAYGROUND AND ISAAC BOYNES BALLPARK, ESTATE GROVE PLACE. DURING THIS VENTURE WE MET THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE CHILDREN. THIS PROGRAM SERVES THE COMMUNITY ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT LEVELS; IT TEACHES CHILDREN SKILLS SUCH AS TEAMWORK, AND BRINGS OUT MANY PEOPLE OF THE SOURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS TO CHEER AND ENCOURAGE THE YOUTH. IT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP A MORE ACQUAINTED AND RESPECTED RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE RESIDENTS.

IN THE DISTRICT OF ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN/WATER ISLAND, WE TOOK A DIFFERENT APPROACH; ST. JOHN COMMUNITY CHILDREN FUN DAY WAS HOSTED IN WINSTON WELLS BALL PARK AND NINETY-FIVE CHILDREN PARTICIPATED. ST. THOMAS DEVELOPED THE INTER-NEIGHBORHOOD BASKETBALL GAMES; BUT, SEVERAL ACTIVITIES WERE POSTPONED, AND IS SCHEDULED TO START IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

DSPR HAS BEEN DEVELOPING UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO ATHLETES. RECENTLY, WE SENT TWENTY-NINE ATHLETES TO A BASEBALL SHOWCASE IN

PUERTO RICO AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT TWO ATHLETES FROM ST. THOMAS NOW ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP. DSPR IS WORKING TO HOST A 13-TO-15 TERRITORIAL SPORTS FESTIVITY WHERE OVER EIGHT DIFFERENT SPORTS COMPETITIONS WOULD BE HELD.

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT DSPR CONTINUES EXPANDING BY DEVELOPING AND PREPARING MORE FACILITIES TO INCREASE THE AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS. FOR SUMMER CAMP THIS YEAR, WE HAVE SEVENTEEN SITES TERRITORY WIDE AND LAST YEAR WE HAD THIRTEEN SITES.

ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN/WATER ISLAND SITES ARE: JOSEPH AUBAIN BALLPARK, EMILE GRIFFITH BALLPARK, WINSTON RAYMO CENTER, LIONEL ROBERTS STADIUM, ALVIN MCBEAN COMPLEX, DORIS HODGE TENNIS COURT, CRUZ BAY CENTER, AND ORVILLE BROWN BASKETBALL COURT.

ST. CROIX SITES ARE: ALTONA LAGOON, D. C. CANEGATA BALLPARKS, RUDY KREIGER COMPLEX, PEDRO "PEI" CRUZ BALLPARK, PROFIT COMMUNITY CENTER, CASTLE BURKE COMMUNITY CENTER, ISAAC BOYNES BALLPARK, RENHOLDT JACKSON COMPLEX AND VINCENT MASON POOL.

THE SPORTS AND ENRICHMENT CAMPS THAT ARE BEING CONDUCTED INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS: FUNDAMENTAL AND SKILLS OF GAMES, BASEBALL, GIRLS SOFTBALL, BOXING, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, GOLF, SOCCER, CHEER LEADERS, ARTS & CRAFT, MARINE SPORTS, KAYAKING, HIKING, FISHING, SNORKLING, SWIMMING LESSONS, SWIMMING, AND WATER EXCURSION.

MOREOVER, THIS YEAR WE HAVE REACHED SEVERAL HUNDRED MORE YOUTHS. IN OUR SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS IN THE PAST NINE MONTHS OF FY 2016, FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN (5,007) CHILDREN PARTICIPATED.

LAST YEAR IN A TWELVE MONTHS PERIOD FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THREE (4,503) CHILDREN PARTICIPATED. **SEE REPORT ON EXHIBIT-C**

**THIS IS PRODUCTIVE!**

DSPR REMAINS FOCUSED AND COMMITTED TO DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, THROUGH OPEN SPACES, FACILITIES, SPORTS, AND RECREATION PROGRAMS. THIS IS THE CONSISTENT MOTIVE FOR US TO MAINTAIN ALL THE PARKS, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS IN OPTIMUM STANDARD. WE WILL CONTINUE WORKING TO DEVELOP MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHILDREN AND ATHLETES. WE WILL CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD TO INVOLVE MORE CHILDREN AND INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION IN OUR SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, THE LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE, AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, AND WE STAND READY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.