

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE VIRGIN ISLANDS SENATE FROM THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VENDORS ASSOCIATION – LAURIE CHAPMAN - PRESIDENT**  
**DATE: APRIL 12, 2016**

The association welcomes and thanks the Senate for this opportunity to share our views and concerns regarding the Vendors Plaza which is a significant attraction to tourist visitors and contributes to the economic wellbeing of the Island of St. Thomas. The vendors over 75 in number represent gainful employment and a contribution through payment of income and business taxes as well as infusing money into the general economy through their own purchases of goods and services from other businesses since the Plaza was started in 1992.

A project that would greatly enhance the viability and appearance of the vendors plaza is a permanent roof structure over the site. The association had been instrumental in securing a Block Grant of \$100,000 with an additional \$ 100, 000 per year for the next 4 years for a total of \$500,000 being held in escrow by the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs for this project.

We understand that additional funds would be needed to realize such project. Towards this end some \$ 276,000 should be available from the Cleaning Fund paid annually by the vendors to the DLCA since 1992 which to our understanding has not been utilized.

We expect that such project would need approval of the Historic District Board and would welcome their participation and input towards a first class tourist attraction and beautification of the area and general downtown environment. We anticipate that a conceptual plans will need to be developed that are in keeping with the historic character of the downtown Charlotte Amalie area. Once that has been accomplished final design plans would need to be developed to secure permits for eventual construction.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our vision for the enhancement of the Vendors Plaza site.

Respectfully yours Laurie Chapman

(c) The Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship shall be for eight (8) semesters at \$2,000 per semester.

(d) All funds appropriated for the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship shall be appropriated to the Board of Education and administered by the Board of Education for the purposes of this Section."

\*Section (b). Notwithstanding any other law, there is appropriated from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund as established under Title 33, Section 3072, Virgin Islands Code, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993, the sum of \$6,000 to the Board of Education to be used for the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship. Such sum shall remain available until expended.

*Approved November 9, 1992.*

#### The Governor's Objections

Bill No. 19-0358, "To honor and commend Major Caroline Adams and to provide a \$2,000 per semester aviation scholarship in her name" is hereby approved with the exception of the following item, part or parts, portion or portions thereof, which is hereby objected to (and deleted and disapproved in full) pursuant to Section 9(d) of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended:

"(b) Notwithstanding any other law, there is appropriated from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund as established under Title 33, Section 3072, Virgin Islands Code, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993, the sum of \$6,000 to the Board of Education to be used for the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship. Such sum shall remain available until expended."

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 9th day of November, A.D., 1992.

Alexander A. Farrelly  
Governor

(BILL NO. 19-0325)

No. 5824

*(Approved January 7, 1993)*

To amend Act No. 5803 (Bill No. 19-0249) to provide funds to cover relocation and rental costs for the V.I. Police Department; to provide

\* Objected to by Governor. See Governor's objections following text of act.

funding to the Department of Public Works for Mass Transit Subsidy; to amend Act No. 5730 to make funds appropriated to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources for the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan, available until expended; to appropriate Foreign Sales Corporation fees for promoting and attracting FSCS to the Territory; to appropriate \$10,000 for burial of police officers who die in the line of duty; to correct an error in Act No. 5810; to waive CZM fees for the expansion of the Cruz Bay dock; to authorize the Departments of Education and Property and Procurement to enter into certain agreements with the United States Department of Education and to authorize the transfer of 1.21 acres of land to WAPA, pursuant to such agreements; to give the Territorial Court jurisdiction in eminent domain cases; to provide for liens for moving violations; to appropriate funds for general maintenance of streets and roads; to appropriate funds for the 1993 Virgin Islands Jazz, Caribbean and Latin Music and Arts Festival; to appropriate funds for the St. Croix Hospital Facilities Board; to authorize the acquisition of Parcel No. 9, Bolongo, St. Thomas for a boys' home; to eliminate fees for filing and service in domestic violence actions; to eliminate fees for copies of certain police reports; to appropriate funds for payment of a settlement to Zenon Corporation; to appropriate funds for the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of St. Croix; to appropriate \$150,000 for a marching contingent to participate in the 52nd Inaugural Parade; to provide for the development of a rental scale for occupants of low income housing managed by the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation, and to prohibit an increase in rent until such scale is implemented; to amend Title 21, Section 16, Virgin Islands Code, regarding loans for veterans; to provide for payment of 1991 real property taxes; to authorize the Governor to extend the time for payment of property taxes by Executive Order; to reduce the excise tax on beer and carbonated drinks in reusable containers; to increase the budget of the Antilitter and Beautification Commissions; to create the Vendors Plaza Revolving Fund; to provide that the annual maintenance fee for the Vendors Plaza shall not exceed \$200.00 until certain improvements are added; to amend the Real Estate Appraisers Licensing law; to amend the habitual offender statute to clarify the meaning of "sentence"; to amend the Workmen's Compensation law to include chiropractors; and to make appropriations from the Internal Revenue Matching Fund.

TITLE THIRTY-THREE Taxation and Finance  
Subtitle 3 Finance  
Chapter 111. Government Funds

33 V.I.C. § 3084 (2014)

**§ 3084. Vendors Plaza Revolving Fund**

(a) There is established in the Treasury of the Virgin Islands, a special revolving fund to be designated the "**Vendors Plaza** Revolving Fund". The Commissioner of Finance shall provide for the administration of the fund as a separate and distinct fund in the Treasury and no amounts shall be available for expenditure or disbursement therefrom except as provided in this section.

(b) The purpose of the **Vendors Plaza** Revolving Fund is to protect and preserve the fragile infrastructure of the **Vendors Plaza** and promote the orderly transaction of vending type businesses in the central business district and other vending locations.

(c) The fund shall consist of all sums appropriated thereto from time to time by the Legislature, maintenance and administration fees collected from occupants of **vendors plazas**, and all fines and administrative penalties imposed by the courts and the Commissioner of Licensing and Consumer Affairs for violations of the provisions of Title 27, Virgin Islands Code, pertaining to vendors, and any other laws or duly promulgated rules and regulations, as may be applicable.

(d) Monies contained in the Fund shall be used for, but not limited to, the following purposes:

(1) To pay for the cleaning, sweeping, disposal of trash and other janitorial and gardening functions necessary to maintain the **vendors plazas** in the best interest of the community;

(2) Compiling, evaluating and publicizing the existing laws and regulations applicable to vendors for the general protection of the public;

(3) Promotion and oversight of the enforcement of all laws, rules, regulations and orders which pertain to the operations of vending businesses, itinerant vendors, and **vendors plazas** in order to protect the interests of consumers;

(4) To provide technical advice to the Department for the management and promotion of **vendors plazas**;

(5) To promote, on behalf of vendors and consumers, fair and honest practices of commerce and industry;

(6) To provide for specialized training for staff and enforcement personnel in relation to vendor licensing laws;

(7) To purchase identification cameras, badges, and other materials and equipment

needed to properly document and adequately license vendors;

**(8)** To pay for the costs associated with providing security services and information services, signs, and other structures, improvements or renovations within and without **vendors plazas**; or

**(9)** To enter into contracts and agreements with public or private institutions for carrying out investigations, examinations or analyses of products, articles or services, as well as to carry out publicity campaigns, and sponsor promotional events which would enhance and promote commerce at **vendors plazas**;

**(10)** To acquire decorations and other accessories to maintain and beautify **vendors plazas**; and

**(11)** to acquire necessary equipment for the effective administration of **vendors plazas** by the Department.

In addition to the enumerated uses stated above, monies shall be disbursed from the Fund by the Commissioner of Finance, upon authorization of the Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, for the administration and promotion of **vendors plazas**, and the enforcement of the consumer protection laws of Title 12A and the licensing laws of Title 27 of this Code.

**(e)** The entire proceeds of the **Vendors Plaza** Revolving Fund shall remain on deposit and continue from year to year until such time as expended in accordance with the uses cited in subsection (d) of this section.

#11  
①**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING  
CYRIL E. KING AIRPORT  
TERMINAL BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR  
ST. THOMAS, U.S.V.I. 00802  
September 2, 2005**

Honorable Andrew Rutnick  
Commissioner  
Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs  
No. 1 Subbase, Room 205  
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Dear Commissioner Rutnick:

We are pleased to inform you that the Government of the Virgin Islands has approved the following project for funding from Community Development Block Grant. These funds would be available for expenditure in FY2006:

**The creation of drainage and landscaping at Vendors Plaza,  
St. Thomas in the amount of \$100,000.00**

Please complete the enclosed forms and return them to us showing the representative(s) from your department responsible for developing, implementing and drawing funds for the project. This/These are the person(s) that my staff will contact for the various aspects of the projects. Additionally, please complete the attached forms to show the scope of work, budget, and duration of the projects. These forms should be returned to us no later than Monday, September 19, 2005.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Mr. Laurence Joshua, Director of the Capital and Development Planning Division, at 774-3320 ext. 5174.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claudette C. Lewis".

Claudette C. Lewis  
Executive Assistant Commissioner/Operations

Enclosures

Tel: (340) 774-3320

Fax: (340) 714-9535

E-mail Add: [cdbg@vitelcom.net](mailto:cdbg@vitelcom.net)

# ACT NO. 6758

BILL NO. 26-0092

## TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

Regular Session

2005

To approve the projects to be funded with a \$1,934,203 Community Development Block Grant from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and for other related purposes

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**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has invited the Government of the Virgin Islands to apply for \$1,934,203 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); and

**WHEREAS**, being the department responsible for the administration of the CDBG, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) has solicited and received 65 proposals from government and non-government agencies to be considered for funding from this grant, with these proposals totaling \$10,962,685.05; and

**WHEREAS**, DPNR has reviewed and evaluated these proposals in accordance with federal regulations, and their need and feasibility impact, and have made recommendations to the Governor of the ones to be funded in accordance with federal law that requires that no more than 15% of the grant be used for the projects involving public service and in accordance with Act No. 6238, which requires the funds to be divided equally among the two districts: and

**WHEREAS**, Virgin Islands law, title 3 Virgin Islands Code, section 67, requires the Legislature to approve participation in federally funded programs: Now Therefore,

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

**SECTION 1.** Pursuant to title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, section 67, the Legislature hereby approves those Community Development projects enumerated in **APPENDIX A**, which is attached hereto and by this reference made apart hereof.

**SECTION 2.** The following sums from the unused portions of CDBG grants to the projects the listed in (a) through (g) of this section are reprogrammed to the American Legion Bromley Berkley Post 133 on St. Croix to rehabilitate buildings on Plots 15 and 16 in Frederiksted:

- (a) **Construction of Handicap Ramp at the Ludwig Harrigan Court** \$50,000
- (b) **Police Pre-cadet** \$8,336
- (c) **Program Income** \$35,000
- (d) **Hard Labor Road Paving** \$1,834
- (e) **Whim Great House Museum Development** \$3,425
- (f) **Purchase of Building for Camp Arawak** \$9,646
- (g) **Education Handicap Retrofitting** \$10,440

**SECTION 3.** Act No. 6610 is amended in the following instances:

- “1. Appendix A, item number 17, is amended by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$37,200”; and
- 2. Appendix A, item number 18, is amended by striking “25,000” and inserting “37,800”.”

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on August 12, 2005

Witnessed our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this <sup>13<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Day of August, A.D., 2005.



*Lorraine L. Berry*  
Lorraine L. Berry  
President

*Liston A. Davis*  
Liston A. Davis  
Legislative Secretary

# Appendix A

## St. John

1. Funds are being sub-granted to the Virgin Islands Resources Center for the Disabled, Inc., to operate an after-school program for disabled children at Julius Sprauve School, Cruz Bay

\$12,000

2. Funds are being sub-granted to the St. Ursula's Multi-Purpose Center for the operation of a computer training program at # 295 Contant Enighed, Cruz Bay.

\$ 15,000

## St. Thomas

3. Funds are being sub-granted to Family Resource Center, Inc., for the completion of the rehabilitation of a facility known as "Hamilton House" to house victims of domestic violence.

\$77,816.50

4. Funds are being sub-granted to the Virgin Islands Resource Center for the Disabled for the operation of an adaptive computer training program for persons with disabilities at #74-75 Kronprindsens Gade.

\$15,000

5. Funds are being sub-granted to We From Up Street, Inc., to provide for after-school services at the J. Antonio Jarvis Elementary School.

\$15,000

6. Funds are being sub-granted to Downstreet People, Inc., for the operation of an after-school program for the youth at #68 Kronprindsens Gade.

\$15,000

7. Funds are being sub-granted to the V.I. Missions, Inc., for the operation of an after-school program for the youth at Vitraco Mall, Build 1, Bay 10.

\$15,000

8. Funds are being sub-granted to the Wesley Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas for the operation of an after-school program for the youths in Anna's Retreat.  
\$10,000

9. Funds are being sub-granted to the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation for the operation of an after-school program for the youth at various locations on the island of St. Thomas.

\$20,000

10. Funds are being sub-granted to the Department of Education for the continuation and maintenance of a playground at the Ulla F. Muller Elementary School located at #101 Contant.

\$75,000

11. Funds are being sub-granted to Workable, Inc., to provide job training opportunities to youths with disabilities on the island of St. Thomas.

\$25,000

12. Funds are being sub-granted to the Methodist Training and Outreach Center to provide outreach and supportive services to the homeless population on the island of St. Thomas.

\$25,065

13. Funds are being sub-granted to Kidscope, Inc., located at #5-6 Kongens Gade to provide services to children who have been victims of abuse, neglect and other crimes.

\$13,065

~~14. Funds are to being sub-granted to the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs for drainage and landscaping at Vendors Plaza (Tolbert Gade).~~

~~\$100,000~~

15. Funds are being sub-granted to the Department of Education for the construction of a playground at Joseph Gomez Elementary School located at #142 Annas Retreat.

\$75,000

16. Funds are being sub-granted to the Department of Public Works for road repairs on St. Thomas.

\$200,753

16a. Funds are being sub-granted to Hearts for Service Association, Inc., to construct a multipurpose facility at the eastern end of the island, to be used for transitional housing for homelessness and public service.

\$65,000

*St. Croix*

17. Funds are being sub-granted to the Virgin Islands Resource Center for the Disabled, Inc., to operate an after-school program for the disabled children at RR2 Kingshill and King Street C'sted.

\$25,000

18. Funds are being sub-granted to the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation for the operation of after-school programs for youth at various locations on the island of St. Croix.

\$20,000

19. Funds are being sub-granted to The Garden School, Inc., for the operation of a reading enhancement program for students ages 9-12.

\$15,000

20. Funds are being sub-granted to The St. Croix Foundation for Community Development for the replacement of the Alexander Theatre's roof, a historic building on Market Street, #38 B Company.

\$145,400

21. Funds are being sub-granted to the VI Partners in Recovery (The Village) for the purchase and rehabilitation of a facility to be used for transitional housing for women with drugs abuse problems.

\$308,281.50

~~22. Funds are being sub-granted to Catholic Charities, Inc., for the rehabilitation of Bethel House, which is used as an emergency shelter for men.~~

~~\$190,000~~

23. Funds are being sub-granted to WTJX Channel 12 for the rehabilitation of the parking lot located at # 36 Estate Richmond.

\$20,000

24. Funds are being sub-granted to Helping Children Work, Inc., for the operation of an after-school program for youths at 156 Estate Grove Place.

\$20,000

25. Funds are being sub-granted to the Holy Ghost Deliverance, Inc., for the operation of an after-school program for the youth located at #303 Estate Barren Spot.

\$20,000

26. Funds are being sub-granted to the Hispanos Unidos Inc., for the operation of an after-school program for Spanish-speaking children and adults at # 31 King Street.

\$10,000

27. Reprogram from the Education Handicap Retrofitting grant the sum of \$20,000 from Act 6432 section 22, to the Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation for the completion of restrooms and concession facilities at the Estate La Valle recreational park.

*Territory Wide*

28. Funds are being sub-granted to the Division of Capital and Development Planning for the operation of the Community Development Block Grant program.

\$386,840.00

**Note: Projects completely bolded are public service projects.**

According to federal regulations, approved public service projects may not exceed 15% of the grant or \$290,130.00.