

# VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority  
1AH Estate Diamond, Suites 1&2  
Christiansted, St. Croix VI 00820  
Phone (340)202-1221

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Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority  
8000 Nisky Center, Suite 1  
St. Thomas, VI 00802  
Phone (340)202-1221

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April 15, 2026

The Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance  
36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
3022 Estate Golden Rock  
Christiansted, United States Virgin Islands 00820

Dear Senator Francis:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the invitation to provide testimony at the Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance hearing regarding Bill No. 36-0257 an act transferring the eastern portion of Parcel No. 2C Estate Ross, 8 New Quarter, St. Thomas, from the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority to the Virgin Islands Department of Education for use by the Charlotte Amalie High School (CAHS).

Unfortunately, due to previous commitments, I regret to inform you that I will not be able to attend the hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 12:00 PM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix.

Nevertheless, the Virgin Islands Office of Disaster Recovery fully endorses Bill No. 36-0257. Charlotte Amalie High School is one of the most historic educational institutions in the territory. The school is located in an extremely busy corridor, which increases the complexity of construction schedules and heightens the risk of disrupting the surrounding community and active learning environments. The acquisition of this property will provide supplementary swing space to facilitate the reconstruction of the new school. Once construction is complete, the property will be utilized as additional space for learning, parking, and to fulfill other school requirements.

Restoring CAHS is a significant and proud chapter in our history and reconstruction efforts. I commend the bill's sponsor, Senator Avery L. Lewis, for his foresight, diligence, and willingness to address issues impacting the reconstruction of our schools and the execution of federally funded projects. I fully recognize the urgency and significance of the matters to be discussed and am hopeful that this legislation will be looked upon favorably.

Respectfully,

Adrienne L. Williams- Octalien  
Director

C: Senator Avery L. Lewis, 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands