



**36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Honorable Senator Milton E. Potter
President

Testimony Presented By
The Honorable Justa Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM
Commissioner of Health

on

Bill #36-0270 (An act amending Official Zoning Map No. SCZ-20, St. Croix to rezone Parcel Nos. 11-F and 11-G Estate Penitentiary Land, Company Quarter, St. Croix from R-3 (Residential-Medium Density) to P (Public)) will be considered by the 36th Legislature's Committee of the Whole

1 Good day, Honorable Milton E. Potter, Senate President, and Senators of the 36th Legislature of
2 the Virgin Islands of the United States; and those viewing and listening. I am Reuben Molloy,
3 Assistant Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands Department of Health. Joining me
4 today, is Anisha Stanley, Director of Project Management.

5 We come before you today to testify on Bill No. 36-0270, an act amending Official Zoning Map
6 No. SCZ-20, St. Croix, to rezone Parcel Nos. 11-F and 11-G Estate Penitentiary Land, Company
7 Quarter, St. Croix from R-3 (Residential-Medium Density) to P (Public).

8 These parcels are currently in use for essential public health operations, including two VIDOH
9 divisions, the Certified Public Health Laboratory, and the Emergency Medical Services State
10 Office, which supports our regulatory functions. It also includes, with supporting parking and
11 logistical access. This request does not introduce a new use but rather aligns the zoning
12 designation with the existing and ongoing public use of the property. Approval of this measure
13 will support continuity of critical health services and provide necessary regulatory clarity for
14 government operations.

15 Importantly, this rezoning is also a critical component of the planned rebuild and long-term
16 modernization of the Donna M. Christensen Public Health Facility. The transition from
17 residential to public zoning provides the legal and planning framework necessary for the
18 Department to move forward with infrastructure redevelopment, future capital investment, and
19 federal funding opportunities tied to public-use facilities. It ensures that the property can
20 appropriately support expanded public health operations, emergency preparedness activities,
21 laboratory modernization, and integrated community health services designed to meet the
22 growing needs of the Territory.

1 The rezoning also strengthens the Department’s ability to responsibly plan for resiliency,
2 accessibility, parking, emergency response coordination, and future public health expansion
3 while ensuring compliance with land-use requirements. Simply put, without proper zoning
4 alignment, the Territory risks delays and limitations in rebuilding critical public health
5 infrastructure that serves the people of St. Croix and the Virgin Islands as a whole.

6 The Department respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this measure.

7 Honorable Senate President Potter and all Senators present, thank you for your time and your
8 commitment to the health of our community, and for your support as we continue to expand and
9 improve our healthcare infrastructure. We stand ready to answer any questions you may have.