

Testimony of

Vincent Richards

*Assistant Commissioner of Property & Printing
Department of Property and Procurement
On behalf of*

Lisa M. Alejandro

Commissioner of the Department of Property & Procurement

on

Bill No. 35-0210

Before

Committee of the Whole

December 13, 2023

*Frits Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands*

Good Morning, President Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Honorable Senators present, fellow testifiers, visitors present in the Legislative Conference Room, and members of the viewing and listening audience.

I am Vincent Richards, Assistant Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement (DPP). I am testifying today on behalf of Commissioner Lisa M. Alejandro on Bill No. 35-0210 – *An Act appropriating \$2,500,000 for the purchase of Plot Nos. 53A, 53B, 54A & 54B Kronprindsens Gade, Crown Prince Quarter, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, by and between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Department of Property and Procurement, and Conroy H. Watt and Kenneth I. Sweeney.*

DPP is in full support of the acquisition. DPP has completed its due diligence in accordance with 31 V.I.C. § 231a, which governs the acquisition of property by sale or exchange, requiring that the Government of the Virgin Islands (GVI) obtain three (3) appraisals for this acquisition. Once funding is available, DPP is ready to proceed with the acquisition forthwith.

DPP humbly requests that this august body proceeds accordingly, as the required appraisal reports are of a time-sensitive nature. The GVI has been interested in acquiring this property for approximately ten (10) plus years. In closing, DPP feels the acquisition of this property is in the best interest of the Government, the Virgin Islands Department of Labor, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, as the location is synonymous with the same.

This concludes my Testimony, and I am prepared to answer any questions the Committee may have on the proposed acquisition. Thank You.

