



We From Upstreet, Inc.
P.O. Box 308242
St. Thomas, VI 00803

The Honorable Angel Bolques, Jr,
Senator-At-Large
Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie
PO Box 1690
St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands 00804



- Kyza A. Callwood, Ph.D., President
- Yvette Finch, Vice President
- Beryl Ryan, Secretary
- Alcanta DeWindt, Treasurer

- Lyle Battiste, Sergeant-At-Arms
- Lawrence O. Benjamin, Sr., Ph.D., Parliamentarian
- Alphonse Stalliard, Public Relations
- Myron D. Jackson, Historian

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Angel Bolques, Jr.
Senator-At-Large
Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie
PO Box 1690
St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands 00804

Dear Senator-At-Large Bolques:

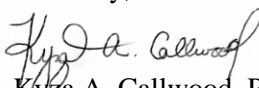
We From Upstreet, Inc. (WEFUS) is in receipt of your letter dated February 2, 2023, to testify at the Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks regarding the status of all project surrounding the 175th Emancipation Commemoration.

We From Upstreet, Inc. is a 27-year-old community-based and leading civic and neighborhood organization on St. Thomas. It was formed in 1995 to advocate and work for the historical appreciation and civic, cultural, and physical revitalization of the Upstreet neighborhood of Charlotte Amalie. Originally, active members and contributors consisted mainly of persons who had, at some point in their lives, resided in Upstreet, but during the past several years, it has grown to include others who recognize the importance of the history and current development of the area to the well-being of St. Thomas and the Virgin Islands. The organization's well-known activities include an annual multi-evening Christmas celebration in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Veterans Memorial Park, the WEFUS Summer Program in conjunction with Sports, Parks and Recreation, and assisting other community organizations in sponsoring musical concerts or other activities in the park.

Past and current members of our organization, such as cultural and social historians Glen "Kwabena" Davis and Former Senator Myron Jackson, are well-known for their expertise in a variety of fields that has contributed to the preservation of our culture while also enhancing social skill and quality of life in the Virgin Islands; general historians like Dr. Marilyn Krigger and the late Dr. Ruth Moolenaar; administrators Edward Thomas, Austin "Babe" Monsanto, who passed away, and Liston Davis, who was the former Education Commissioner; Alphonse Stalliard, the late James A.D. Francis, and musician Yvette Finch were/are community activists.

Despite our gratitude for the invitation, we must respectfully decline it until we are informed of our organization's inclusion. We stand ready to respond to the call when the time is right, and we offer our congratulations to the individuals who are planning this significant event. Again, thank you for your continued interest and support. Please contact me at 340-513-9346 if you have any questions or need additional information. You may also e-mail your response to wefromupstreetinc@gmail.com.

Sincerely,


Kyza A. Callwood, Ph.D.
President