

**Virgin Islands Legislature  
Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services  
Honorable Senator Ray Fonseca, Chairman  
Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

**Testimony of  
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Executive Director  
Territorial Hospital Redevelopment Team  
Virgin Islands Government Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation**

Good afternoon Honorable Senator Ray Fonseca, Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services, Honorable Senators of the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services, other Honorable Senators of the 35th Legislature, Senate Staff, fellow hospital testifiers, and the listening and viewing audience. My name is Darryl A. Smalls, Executive Director of Facilities & Capital Development for the Territorial Hospital Redevelopment Team (THRT), which I serve under the leadership of Chairman, Christopher E. Finch of the Virgin Islands Government Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation (GHHFC).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify this afternoon as to the status of the Recovery Efforts as it pertains specifically to the facilities which make up the Schneider Regional Medical Center, which include the Roy L. Schneider Hospital, the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute and the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center. As the Executive Director of the THRT, my primary role is to manage and oversee the planning, programmatic design, final design, bidding, project management, procurement, construction, and the project close out process for the

redevelopment of our Territorial Health Facilities to include the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital (JFLH) and the St. Thomas/St. John facilities of the Schneider Regional Medical Center (SRMC).

With respect to Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute (CKCI), I am happy to report that we have successfully completed the selective demolition of the facility which was severely impacted by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. I am equally happy to report that the THRT recently issued the public solicitation as of the week of April 17<sup>th</sup> for the services of a responsive contractor who once selected will ultimately reconstruct the damaged facility. A pre-bid walk through for contractors is scheduled for the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the THRT is to issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP) for the construction no later than September 2023. The target completion date that would coincide with a September NTP for this critically needed Cancer Institute is December 2024.

The Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center, which was also severely impacted, has cleared the final local hurdles to arrive at a Fixed Cost Offer from FEMA. No later than Friday May 12, 2023, it is anticipated that the Independent Expert Panel (IEP), which is an entity outside of FEMA, will have completed their review and the project will then proceed to the Large Project Notification (LPN) process which can take up to forty-five (45) days after which we would receive notification that the project has been obligated. Due to the fact this is considered a “mega project,” or one greater than Twenty-Five Million, there are a number of reviewers who must review the overall project in great detail. As this is a large project, Congress will be involved as they too must approve the funding for this most important project. Once we receive the official Fixed Cost Offer, we will commence immediately with the issuance of a solicitation, specifically a

Request for Qualifications (RFQ), to review and establish a pool of qualified respondents who ultimately would be deemed responsive and be eligible to submit a proposal once issued for the construction of the new Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center for the residents of and visitors to the island of St. John.

The final and most significant project to be obligated is the Roy L. Schneider Hospital. RLSH, by far, has been the most challenging project, which after years of arduous discussions, wrangling and perseverance, we ultimately received notification that it met the criteria for a full replacement. Unlike CKCI, which to date has received a Fixed Cost Offer, MKSCHC, which has cleared the final hurdles to obtain a Fixed Cost Offer, RLSH is currently in the process of developing the framework for which a final cost offer can be derived. Working collaboratively with our consultant, Witt O'Brien, along with FEMA, the THRT has remained steadfast throughout the discussions surrounding the elements of the damages incurred and their respective costs. To put the discussions into perspective, both JFLH and RLSH were both designed and constructed as 250 bed hospitals in the early 1980's. Utilizing the information garnered during the fixed cost determination for JFLH, the framework has been established and is being utilized as the benchmark for developing the ultimate replacement cost for RLSH. We anticipate that the THRT and FEMA will mutually agree on a path forward no later than June 2023 after which we can successfully arrive at a Fixed Cost Offer by September 2023. Working with our architect of record, we have been proactive with developing conceptual schemes which will facilitate an aggressive yet efficient construction schedule that could see construction commencing within twenty-four months after a Fixed Cost Offer has been achieved.

As I presented earlier today, My Team and I along with FEMA and the Office of Disaster Recovery have remained and will continue to remain vigilant throughout this entire process. We will continue to be creative, thoughtful, and diligent on behalf of the SRMC personnel, its patients, along with the residents of and visitors to the St. Thomas/St. John District. While there is still more work to be accomplished, there is no doubt in my mind that, "Together We Will Be Stronger," provided we work collectively towards one objective and that is to construct the most efficient, standardized, resilient, sustainable state of the art healthcare facilities for the people of the Virgin Islands.

As I conclude my presentation, I want to personally thank Ms. Kristen A. Hodge, Recovery Director, JRO-USVI for her continued support of our hospitals and Mrs. Adrienne Williams-Octalien of the Office of Disaster Recovery for her unwavering support as the liaison between the hospitals and FEMA. Equally important I want to thank the Territorial Board, the Executive Leadership of SRMC, and the professionals of the Territorial Hospital Redevelopment Team.

This concludes my presentation. I will remain available to answer questions at the appropriate time.