

March 17, 2024

To: Honorable Diane T. Capehart, Chair of Committee on Rules and Judiciary 35Th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

From: Marcellino Ventura Sr., Director of Operations Caribbean Fire Chiefs Association

Honorable Chairwoman Capeheart and esteemed members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary,

I am Marcellino Ventura Sr., retired Deputy Chief of Operations of the then-Virgin Islands Fire Service and current Director of Operations Caribbean Fire Chiefs Association.

It is my pleasure to endorse Antonio O. Stevens's nomination as the Director of the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Service. I first met Mr. Stevens as a prospective candidate during his interview process to become a Firefighter with VIFS. As a Veteran of the armed forces myself, I quickly observed his obvious discipline and professionalism, as he had recently separated from the armed service. Over the past fifteen years, Mr. Stevens has demonstrated a level of leadership that embodies the qualities needed to lead this agency.

As a member of the Caribbean Association of Fire Chiefs and a graduate of our Senior Leadership Academy, Mr. Stevens has been very instrumental in organizing and executing our Firefighters Challenge at our annual conference venues, a component of our Training Division. He has also served in an advisory role within the Association on numerous occasions.

One of the most important qualities in future agency leadership is the ability to experience the overall functions of that agency. Mr. Stevens achieved this milestone by working in the Fire Suppression Unit, Arson Prevention and Investigation Unit, Hazardous Material Unit, and Administrative Division of VIFEMS.

I hereby request that you favorably consider his ascension to lead the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Service. Thank you in advance for your support.