

**Testimony of Vance E. Pinney for
Confirmation Hearing, Coastal Zone Management Committee**

Honorable Diane T. Capehart, Chairwoman of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, esteemed committee members, distinguished members of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, valued listeners and viewers, Good Morning!

I am deeply honored to appear before you today as a nominee for the Coastal Zone Management Committee. My name is Vance E. Pinney, and I bring to this committee a wealth of experience as a Registered Architect and Licensed General Contractor, coupled with a robust history of service within the Virgin Islands Government.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of serving in numerous roles that have equipped me with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute effectively to the Coastal Zone Management Committee. Allow me to briefly outline my professional journey:

1. Capital Improvement Projects Engineering Administrator at the USVI Department of Public Works: In this capacity, I oversaw major infrastructure projects, ensuring their timely completion within budget while maintaining the highest standards of quality. My role required a deep understanding of Engineering and Architectural principles, project management, and regulatory compliance, all of which are critical to managing our coastal zones effectively.

2. Director of Facilities, Architectural and Engineering Managers at the USVI Department of Education: Leading a dedicated team responsible for the maintenance and development of educational facilities across the territory improved my skills in facilities management, long-term planning, and sustainability. These aspects are essential for the stewardship of our coastal areas.

3. Architect at the USVI Housing Authority: Designing and overseeing the construction of housing projects, many of which were in coastal areas, provided me with firsthand understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in coastal development. This experience highlighted the need for balance between growth and environmental preservation.

4. Engineering Instructor at the University of the Virgin Islands: Teaching future Engineers and Architects has been one of my most rewarding roles. It not only kept me abreast of the latest developments in engineering and architecture but also underscored the importance of educating the next generation about sustainable practices and coastal zone management.

As I testify before you today, I am guided by a commitment to sustainable development and a deep respect for our natural environment. The Virgin Islands are blessed with rich and diverse coastal ecosystems that are vital to our economy, culture, and way of life. My vision for the Coastal Zone Management Committee is one where development and conservation go hand in hand. I believe in a collaborative approach, engaging with community stakeholders, environmental experts, and industry leaders to create policies that are both forward-thinking and grounded in practical realities.

EXPERTISE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

If confirmed, I would bring a multifaceted expertise to the Coastal Zone Management Committee:

Architectural and Engineering Expertise: My extensive background in architecture and engineering equips me with a deep understanding of building design, structural integrity, and sustainable construction practices. This knowledge is essential for evaluating and guiding development projects within our coastal zones to ensure they are resilient, environmentally friendly, and aesthetically harmonious with our natural landscapes.

Project Management Skills: Overseeing numerous large-scale projects, I possess strong project management skills, including budgeting, scheduling, and resource allocation. This experience ensures that projects are completed efficiently and effectively, minimizing disruptions to our coastal environments.

Regulatory Compliance and Policy Development: My roles within the Department of Public Works and the Department of Education required strict adherence to regulatory standards and the development of policies to guide project implementation. This experience will be invaluable in shaping and

enforcing regulations that protect our coastal zones while allowing for responsible development.

Sustainability Focus: Throughout my career, I have championed sustainable practices, from green building standards to renewable energy integration. My commitment to sustainability aligns with the core objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Committee, ensuring that our policies and actions contribute to the long-term health and vitality of our coastal ecosystems.

Educational and Community Outreach: As an engineering instructor, I have a passion for education and community engagement. I understand the importance of raising awareness about coastal zone issues and fostering a culture of stewardship. I plan to leverage this experience to enhance the committee's outreach efforts, ensuring that the public is informed and involved in our conservation initiatives.

GOALS FOR THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Prior to leveraging any of my expertise, at or before my first Coastal Zoning Management Committee meeting, I will have discussions with the existing Board Members about existing goals that the Coastal Zone Management Committee have identified and collaborate with committee members so we can have those ideas arise to fruition.

Throughout my career, I have been guided by a commitment to sustainable development and a deep respect for our natural environment. My work with the Department of Public Works on infrastructure projects provided invaluable experience in ensuring that developments are environmentally sound and sustainable. At the Department of Education, I prioritized the integration of green building practices and energy efficiency, demonstrating my ability to align large-scale projects with environmental goals. As an architect at the Virgin Islands Housing Authority, I designed housing solutions that met the community's needs while preserving the surrounding coastal ecosystems. My diverse experience across public and private sectors equips me with a holistic understanding of the challenges and opportunities in coastal zone management. The Virgin Islands are blessed with rich and diverse coastal ecosystems that are vital to our economy, culture, and way of life. As a member of the Coastal Zone Management

Committee, I would leverage my extensive experience to ensure that we continue to protect and enhance these precious resources.

In closing, I am deeply committed to serving the people of the Virgin Islands and to protecting our coastal zones for future generations. I am grateful for the opportunity to be considered for this important role and am ready to bring my dedication, expertise, and passion to the Coastal Zone Management Committee. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Vance E. Pinney