



SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
PRESIDENT

CHAIRPERSON

July 27, 2023

Committee on the Whole

Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor of the Virgin Islands
1105 King Street
Christiansted, VI 00820

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Budget, Appropriations
& Finance

Dear Governor Bryan:

MEMBER

Health, Hospitals &
Human Services

Culture, Sports, Parks &
Youth

I am writing to gain clarity on the timeline for the ratification of the proposed St. John land exchange and other matters relevant to this transaction. A Legislative subcommittee has been formed to investigate matters germane to the proposed land exchange, to include land acquisition, alternatives to the current proposal, feasibility study, water accessibility, FEMA funding and funds expended thus far on this project. Your response to the following questions raised by the subcommittee is appreciated.

First, it was the Legislature's understanding that the proposed exchange of Whistling Cay for the Virgin Islands National Park owned Parcel No. 6 of Estate Catherineberg must be ratified by August 4, 2023. The documents provided to the Legislature do not contain language pertaining to this time constraint. I am requesting that you provide any documentation available that supports the August 4th deadline.

Second, there has been widespread discussion regarding alternatives to the exchange of Whistling Cay that were not considered by your office. Please provide to the Legislature a listing of any alternatives involving the sale or donation of land that were presented to the Office of the Governor and any findings on these proposals.

Third, my colleagues are also concerned that the bill language sent down by your office is not specific to the use of the Catherineberg property for a school. Please clarify whether this was intentional or an oversight.

Finally, who is the Office of the Governor's point of contact on this matter?

Your prompt response is appreciated, as the members of the 35th Legislature are committed to the best outcomes for St. John students and residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Regards,

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senate President
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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