

THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 17, 2020 Press Contact Semele A.C. George 340-714-1700 ext. 1512 sgeorge@usvieda.org

Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority Adjusts Operations Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS—To help ensure the safety and well-being of the U.S. Virgin Islands community, its staff, clients and stakeholders, the U.S. Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority (USVIEDA) has adjusted its operations on both St. Thomas and St. Croix due to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Staff will operate remotely by telecommuting to continue serving its clients, stakeholders, and the community.

The USVIEDA will discontinue walk-in customer services, in-person appointments and manual delivery of documents and other items effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 until further notice.

To make a payment, file a document, or make any additional inquiries, please email info@usvieda.org or call 340-714-1700 (St. Thomas) and 340-773-6499 (St. Croix).

The USVIEDA has taken these precautionary measures to help avert the spread of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) virus to its team, clients, stakeholders, and the community it serves. This adjustment in operations is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. declared a State of Emergency for the USVI on March 13, 2020.

"After in-depth deliberation, we determined that it is necessary to take these steps to do our part in ensuring that the health of our staff, clients, stakeholders, and the community is protected," said Kamal I. Latham, VIEDA Chief Executive Officer. "The well-being of the people of this Territory is important to us, and we deem these measures appropriate to help promote social distancing as recommended by the CDC. We look forward to continuing to work with our clients and economic development partners during this time."

For more information, or to receive answers to inquiries, on any USVIEDA services and programs offered through the Economic Development Commission, Enterprise Zone Commission, Economic Development Bank, and the Economic Development Park Corporation, please email info@usvieda.org. For media/PR inquiries, please contact marketing@usvieda.org.

The USVIEDA encourages its clients and other businesses in the community to create a contingency plan for their operations during this time of crisis. The business community can review the Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers regarding the coronavirus at <u>www.cdc.gov</u> as provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For up to date information on the Coronavirus, visit the Virgin Islands Department of Health's website at: <u>doh.vi.gov/coronavirus</u> or text COVID19USVI to 88877.

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