



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 487-2019

**EXECUTIVE ORDER TO REASSIGN OVERSIGHT OF OPERATIONS OF THE
VITEMA TERRITORIAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE UNIT AND THE TERRITORIAL
HAZARD MITIGATION UNIT TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF DISASTER
RECOVERY UNDER THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Office of Disaster Recovery (“VIODR”), as established as of February 13, 2019 by Resolution 19-06 of the Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority (“VIPFA”), stands as a subsidiary division within the VIPFA, a semiautonomous instrumentality of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the VIODR, as authorized by the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands as the Governor’s Authorized Representative (“GAR”) for purposes of federal disaster recovery matters, administers the federal disaster assistance program on behalf of the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, the reorganization of the Territorial Public Assistance (“PA”) Unit and the Territorial Hazard Mitigation (“HM”) Unit from the auspices of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (“VITEMA”) to placement within the VIODR under VIPFA is vital to ensure coherent coordination of the recovery process, adherence with all federal and state laws and regulations, and concise execution of all operations within each territorial agency’s role; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands VIODR shall provide complete executive oversight and coordination to all disaster recovery program funds and operations; thus ensuring compliance, efficiency and effectiveness;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, as amended, which provides that the Governor shall have the power to issue executive orders not in conflict with any applicable law, it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

SECTION 1. As of the date of this Executive Order, the operations of the Territorial Public Assistance (“PA”) Unit and the Territorial Hazard Mitigation (“HM”) Unit shall be

reassigned from the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (“VITEMA”) to administrative placement under the VIODR within the VIPFA and shall be supervised by the ODR Director/Governor’s Authorized Representative (“GAR”).

SECTION 2. The reassignment of operations, as stated within this Executive Order, shall supplement any assignment within Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 10 [Act 7074] related to the PA Unit and the HM Unit under the auspices of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (“VITEMA”) for temporary operational purposes. All employees of the PA Unit and the Territorial HM Unit shall report to the VIODR and receive direction from the ODR Director/ GAR on all operational and fiscal matters related to disaster recovery of both program units.

SECTION 3. The Territorial PA Unit and the Territorial HM Unit shall administratively remain as employees of VITEMA, but operating officially within the VIODR for the duration of VIODR.

SECTION 4. VITEMA shall continue to perform all human resource functions, to include but not be limited to, employee onboarding, compensation and benefits administration, and compliance with statutory employment regulations.

SECTION 5. The Territorial PA Unit and the Territorial HM Unit shall be remunerated through the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding respectively.

SECTION 6. VITEMA shall continue to oversee all emergency response and preparedness operations pursuant to Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 10 [Act 7074]; whereas, the VIODR shall oversee all disaster recovery operations for the duration of VIODR.

SECTION 7. VITEMA shall remain as the grant recipient of all PA and HMGP federal funds.

SECTION 8. Pre-existing equipment and furniture purchased to support the staff and operations of the Territorial PA Unit and the Territorial HM Unit’s staff shall accompany the operations during their reassignment effective the date of this Executive Order.


SECTION 9. The Territorial PA Unit and the Territorial HM Unit employees shall return to assignment pursuant to Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 10 [Act 7074] at such time that the operations of the VIODR cease.

SECTION 10. Effective Date

The mandate of this Executive Order shall be effective immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands this 17 day of June, A.D., 2019.




Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Attest:

Tregenza A. Roach
Lieutenant Governor