THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DAY

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BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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A PROCLAMATION

The development of viable urban and rural communities is important to the United States Virgin Islands and its residents. The Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Program was authorized by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 which was enacted by Congress on August 22, 1974 to provide annual grants to cities, counties and states to develop strong communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and opportunities to expand economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons.

For forty years, various state and local level grantees have utilized Community Development Block Grant funds to initiate eligible program activities to address critical and unmet community needs including those for housing rehabilitation, public facilities, infrastructure, economic development, and public services, based upon the community's priorities and benefits. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will recognize August 22, 2014 as the 40th Anniversary of the CDBG Program and has urged local grantees to use the opportunity to highlight the role of CDBG and its impact on local housing and community development efforts.

In 1985, the Territory began receiving an annual allotment of CDBG funds and has received the sum of $56,472,976.00 to date – which funds have been awarded to various public, non-profit and faith-based sub-recipients which have undertaken the construction of public infrastructure projects and community facilities and also supported numerous public service projects.

In 2007, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands and the Government of the Virgin Islands through Act No. 6973 transferred the administration of the CDBG Program to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA). VIHFA has adopted a vision statement to affirm its role as the premier housing and community development agency fostering sustainable communities in the Territory. VIHFA is committed to its mandate to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and opportunities to expand economic opportunities which are critical not only to the welfare of individual families, but also the overall economic well-being of the Territory.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the Authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and by Act No. 6973, hereby proclaim August 22, 2014 as *Community Development Block Grant Day* in the United States Virgin Islands. I urge all residents to join with me in supporting the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), agencies of the Virgin Islands Government and their non-profit and faith-based partners in the efforts to *Building Better Neighborhoods* for the people of the Territory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 13th day of August A.D., 2014.

John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

Gregory R. Francis
Lieutenant Governor