



Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks, and Recreation
Senator Samuel Carriòn, Chairman
34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
January 26, 2022

Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation
Calvert White, Commissioner



Good day, Honorable Chairman Samuel Carriòn, Chairman of the Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks, and Recreation of the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States (USVI), Honorable Senators, Central Staff, and the listening and viewing audience. I am Calvert White, the Commissioner of the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation (DSPR); here to provide testimony on the status of operations of the Department to include but not limited to, projects, initiatives, and the status of the Paul E. Joseph Stadium project. I want first to introduce members of my Leadership Team: Ms. Renee Hansen, Assistant Commissioner – St. Croix, Mr. Vincent Roberts, Assistant Commissioner – St. Thomas/St. John, Ms. Carol Peters, Director of Business and Financial Management, Ms. Rellina Pelle, Human Resources Manager, Ms. Jamilah Henry, District Administrator of Sports and Recreation – St. Croix, Mr. Kirk Thomas, District Administrator of Sports and Recreation – St. Thomas/St. John and Mr. Elroy Hill, Deputy Director – St. John. Also here with me is Mr. Arol Abel, the Department's Disaster Recovery Specialist.

The management of our disaster recovery projects has been no easy feat. The Disaster Recovery Team at DSPR has been working tirelessly to keep our Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance grant (PA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funded projects moving to completion. Currently, we have a total of 51 projects territory-wide with a combined estimated project cost of just over 30 million dollars. At the Committee on Disaster Recovery and Infrastructure senate hearing on Wednesday, May 18, 2021, the Department reported ten projects completed, three projects either starting or nearing completion, 16 projects out for solicitation, and 14 projects in the architectural and engineering (A & E) stage; with most of them having at least 50% of the A & E design completed. To date, the Department now has 16 projects completed, ten projects with contractors on-site, one project we will be completing in-house, four projects in the contracting phase, two projects that are being solicited for construction services, seven projects in the A & E phase, and three Hazard Mitigation projects.

Completed (16)

- **Main office STX** –completed July 2018; contract cost \$64,750.00
- **Main office STT** – completed October 2018; contract cost \$92,877.00 plus \$20,038.80 in damaged furniture
- **David Hamilton Jackson Park** – completed October 2018; contract cost \$139,374.75
- **VM Coral Resort/ Mon- Bijou Park debris removal** – completed in-house September 2019
- **Franklin Roosevelt Veterans Park** - completed October 2020; contract cost \$38,435.00
- **Emancipation Garden Park** – completed November 2020; contract cost \$30,275.00
- **Fairchild's Park** – completed November 2020; \$17,450.00
- **Omar Brown Park** – completed November 2020; contract cost \$29,850.00
- **Smith Bay Tiny Tots Playground** – completed November 2020; \$18,900.00
- **Romeo Malone Center** – completed December 2020; contract cost \$27,300.00
- **Clock Tower Plaza** – completed May 2021; contract cost \$25,000.00
- **Emile Henderson Court** – completed June 2021; contract cost \$24,240.00
- **Educator's Park** – Completed August 2021; the contract cost \$39,100.50
- **Winston Raymo Center** – Completed November 2021; contract cost \$43,391.00
- **Valdemar Hill Lookout Point** – completed November 2021 contract cost \$45,489.00
- **Milton Newton Park** – Completed, Dec 2021 contract cost \$14,080.00

Contractor On-Site (10)

- **Campo Rico Basketball Court** - estimated completion February 2022; contract cost \$44,120.00
- **Composite Parks** (Limpritch Park, Princess Park, Glynn Recreation Park, Castle Burke Playground, La Valle Recreation Park, and Mon Bijou Park) estimated completion February 2022; contract cost \$288,614.20
- **Cramer's Park Pavilions** – estimated completion April 2022; contract cost \$781,357.14
- **Fort Frederik Beach** – estimated completion April 2022; contract cost \$236,774.37
- **Isaac Boynes Ballpark** – Currently, 90% of the work is complete; estimated completion date is April 2022; contract cost \$286,416.00
- **Pedro Cruz Ballpark** – estimated completion May 2022, Contract \$211,966.76

- **Joseph Aubain Ballpark Facility & Frenchtown Tiny Tot Playground** – estimated completion May 2022; project cost \$439,545.00
- **Lionel Roberts Stadium** – estimated completion May 2022; project cost \$749,911.30
- **Vincent F. Mason Coral Resort Park and Pool** – estimated completion May 2022; project cost \$2,719,837.33
- **Buddhoe Park** (Buddhoe Park, Susanna Santana Beach Recreation Center, Christiansted Beach Front, Vern Richards Veteran's Park & Williams Delight Community Center) – Estimated completion June 2022; contract cost \$416,749.29. In addition to the project scope, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. approved \$1.5 million to complete the improvements to the Frederiksted waterfront spanning from Marley Beach, through Strand Street to Buddhoe Park and including a new and upgraded playground in Midre Cummings Park

In-House Project (1)

- **Coki Beach** – this project has gone out for formal solicitation twice; each time, the bid evaluation committee recommended canceling the invitation for bid (IFB) due to excessive bid amounts. The plan is to complete this project in-house with our maintenance staff within the first half of the year

Contracting (4)

- **Cramer's Park Concession Stand** – Contract cost \$1,544,755.00, the Department of Property and Procurement (DPP) is drafting a construction contract, all bids received came in over both the engineers' estimate and the FEMA obligated estimated project cost of \$695,136.00; the evaluation committee recommended that DSPR select the lowest of the four bids at \$1,544,755.00. DSPR then requested that FEMA provide a cost alignment to support this contract cost. The project is currently going through the approval process
- **Doris Hodge Tennis Center** – Contract cost \$167,355.80; DPP is drafting a construction contract
- **Emile Griffith Ballpark** – Contract cost \$1,339,467.00, a construction contract is being drafted by (DPP)
- **Rudy Krieger Complex** – Contract cost \$931,030.00, DPP is drafting a construction contract

Solicitation (2)

- **Alvin McBean Complex Park** – Bids are due February 3, 2022; this is the 3rd round of solicitation

- **Kirwin Terrace Ballpark** – for the third time, an invitation for bid (IFB) will be requested through the Department of Property and Procurement this week; we anticipate seeing those advertisements in early February 2022

A&E (7)

- **Cruz Bay Tennis Court & Orville Brown Basketball** – scoping is being developed by DSPR and DPW; this project will be combined with the concession and bleachers of the Winston Wells project
- **DC Canegata Complex** – design for this project is 100% complete; this public assistance project will be combined with two HMGP projects: the DC Canegata Generator Project and the DC Canegata Wind Retrofit project to be solicited in February 2022. The center will be used as a shelter if needed after a disaster
- **Estate Profit Community Center** – the conceptual design is complete
- **Ezra Fredericks Ballpark** – DSPR exploring converting space of this facility to a skate/bike park and creating a green space for play
- **Lionel "Smut" Richards Ball Park** – a second IFB will be requested through the Department of Property and Procurement for the A&E of this project; we anticipate seeing those advertisements in February 2022
- **Reinholdt Jackson Complex** – design for this project is 100% completed and will be reviewed by DPW; solicitation for this project will go out February 2022
- **St. John Community Center** – the A&E portion of this project is supported as Phase I of the HMGP project. The final scope will rebuild this facility using a combination of FEMA Public Assistance, HMGP, and Public Finance Authority Capital Improvement funding.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (3)

The HMPG or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding for eligible activities that reduce community vulnerability to disasters and their effects, promote community safety and resilience, and promote community vitality. These grants cover 100% of the project cost. Currently, DSPR has three HMGP Projects:

- **St. John Community Safe Room/Building Retrofit** – A contract has been executed to complete Phase I (Technical Feasibility Assessment and Engineering Design) deliverables. Upon completion, FEMA will consider Phase II (Construction) with an estimated project cost of \$2.3 million. The facility will include three (3) entrances and an elevator, be ADA compliant, harden the building against hurricane-force winds, have built-in guttering, hurricane-resistant case windows, and entrances constructed out of aluminum. A 30-kW generator, a 200-gallon fuel

storage tank, and two (2) cisterns for water storage will also be incorporated into the design. DSPR has an additional \$450,000 in PFA Capital Improvement funding to add to the final project.

- **DC Canegata Recreational Center & Sports Complex Generator Project** – the installation of a 60kW generator, 500-gallon fuel tank, automatic transfer switch (and related electrical connections), and installation of a wind-rated, prefabricated metal enclosure are included in the approved scope of work for this project.
- **DC Canegata Center & Sports Complex Wind Retrofit** – this HMGP project funding was increased to include a *total* roof replacement in addition to the hardening of the existing building's window opening, doorways, continuous load path, gutters and downspouts, and exterior lighting.

Pending FEMA Decision (1)

- **Massac Boxing Center Building** - estimated project cost: \$2,440,000.00

FEMA has unofficially deemed this project ineligible; however, we are committed to undergoing the lengthy appeal process. We have filed an appeal to the federal government and are currently presenting our case as to why this project should be awarded funds.

Additional Projects (2)

- **Randall "Doc" James Race Track & Clinton Phipps Race Track** – Although there is still litigation pending, the amended agreement between GVI and VIGL has allowed the promoter to begin redevelopment at the Randall "Doc" James Race Track on St. Croix. Governor Bryan has been negotiating the terms of an agreement to resume renovations at the Clinton Phipps Race Track; I hope this body will support the outcome of those negotiations.

428 – Alternate Project (1)

The Honeymoon Beach project was obligated to have an estimated project cost of \$2,275,078.00. However, FEMA would not fund the project unless we agreed to mitigation because of the proximity to the coastline. The Department was given three options: elevate the structure, remove, and relocate the construction, or accept the fixed cost offer, opting into the 428 Public Assistance Alternate Procedures for Permanent Work program (428 PAAP, or 428 for short.) DSPR opted for the latter.

Section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act)¹, authorizes FEMA to award Public Assistance (PA) funding

based on fixed estimates. Opting into the 428 PAAP allows the Department to administer the funds in a way that will best meet the Department's needs for recovery, long-term resiliency, and future preparedness. Through this program, FEMA does not require us to rebuild the facilities back to their pre-storm condition. The purchase of equipment, restoration of disaster-damaged facilities, and hazard mitigation efforts are all eligible costs under the 428-PAAP program. A detailed spending plan for the total obligated amount was submitted and approved by FEMA.

To date, the Department has received two John Deer tractors and is currently awaiting the equipment attachments. We have also ordered two Barber Beach Rakes and are eagerly awaiting their arrival to the territory. We have begun using funding from this 428 alternate project to convert the lighting in our parks to a comprehensive LED lighting system. The remainder of the funds will be used to purchase new basketball rims and backboards at selected basketball courts.

Item	Estimated Cost
2-John Deere tractors along with identified attachments	\$ 240,000.00
2-Barber Beach Rake (sand and debris cleaner)	\$ 100,000.00
20-Grizzly adjustable basketball system to be installed at selected outdoor courts.	\$ 60,000.00
10-Irrigation systems installed at select ball fields along with material to correct drainage issues.	\$ 400,000.00
17-Lighting retrofit plans at select basketball/tennis courts each from high-pressured sodium lights to LED lighting. 17@ approx. \$17,500 each 4- Lighting retrofit plans at select baseball fields from high-pressured sodium lights to LED lighting @\$106,500 each. Miscellaneous cost of taxes, transportation of equipment and bonding. \$ 26,500	\$ 750,000.00
Electrician/Labor to retrofit metal halide lights with knew LED lighting at 17 select basketball/tennis courts. Included 4 retrofit plans to change out metal halide lighting to LED lighting at 4 selected baseball fields. Price includes all labor and material to install the control and monitoring system for each site.	\$ 500,000.00
Total	\$2,050,000.00

While we continue to move forward with our facilities' restoration, DSPR has additional projects to enhance our facilities. When I appeared before this body in 2021, I mentioned that DSPR was accepting bid proposals from contractors to resurface, repave and restripe 20 basketball courts, 14 tennis courts, and eight paddleball courts throughout the territory under the authority of DSPR. Since that time, the Department has executed a contract in each district. We are just as excited as the community that this project is currently on its way. The contractor has



completed three basketball courts and two tennis courts and is now working at the Renholdt Jackson facility in Estate Whim. Resurfacing at the Renholdt Jackson should be completed by the end of this week. Funding for the resurfacing project comes from the FY2020 Capital Improvement Project grant awarded by the Department of Interior – Office of Insular Affairs. Below is a complete chart of all the facilities DSPR intends to refurbish.

FACILITY		TENNIS COURT	PADDLEBALL COURT	BASKETBALL COURT
St. Croix				
1	Renholdt Jackson Recreation Complex	2		1
2	Rudy Krigger Recreation Complex	2	2	1
3	DC Canegata Recreation Complex	3	2	1
4	Isaac Boynes Ballpark	1		1
5	Emile "Gravy" Henderson Sports Courts	1		1
6	Glynn Recreation Park			1
7	La Grand Princess Park			1

8	Mon Bijou Park			1
9	Campo Rico Playground Park			1
10	Castle Burke Basketball Court			1
11	Williams Delight Basketball Court			1
12	La Valle Recreation Park			1
13	Pedro Cruz			1
St. Thomas				
14	Alvin McBean Recreation Complex	1	2	2
15	Ezra Fredericks Ballpark			1
16	Lionel "Smutt" Richards Ballpark and Basketball Court			1
17	Winston Raymo Center & Basketball Court			1
18	Doris Hodge Tennis Center (Subbase)	2	2	
19	Milt Newton Park			1
St. John				
20	Orville Brown Basketball Court (Pine Peace)			1
21	Cruz Bay Tennis Court	2		
TOTAL		14	8	20

Act No. 8448, Bill No. 34-0014, the 34th Legislature approved \$50,000 in the Tourism Revolving fund to complete a site utilization plan at Estate Nazareth No. 1 & 2 Red Hook. With the assistance of the Department of Property and Procurement, a contract has been awarded to Boschelte, LLC to complete the utilization plan that will allow us to better understand what facilities can and should fit at the property. DSPR, DPP, the Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA), and the Virgin Islands Cricket Association (VICA) have had several meetings to discuss the land preparation needed to create a cricket pitch. DPP has issued a license agreement giving the VICA access to the property. VICA intends to construct a cricket pitch at the facility by June of this year, giving cricketers a place to play the sport they love.

I applaud the Department of Public Works for their management of the Paul E. Joseph project. For me, seeing the concrete pour of the left and right dugout floors brought much excitement and anticipation for the next phase, the concrete pour for the

right field and center field floor slabs. Commissioner Derek Gabriel and his team will provide you with more details during his testimony at today's hearing.

In 2020, the Caribbean Drag Racing Association (CDRA) received \$500,000 in government funding to begin the work of building a better, safer track. In addition to private sector support, that funding covered the cost of paving the main drag racing strip and the construction of ADA-compliant bleachers and a judge's tower with a VIP section. Governor Albert Bryan Jr. signed Bill 34-0020, now Act 8449, appropriating \$675,000 to complete the drag racing strip. In October 2021, through a Notice of Grant Award (NOGA), DSPR released half of that appropriation, \$337,750, to complete the redevelopment of the drag racing site just east of the Henry E. Rohlsen. The remaining \$337,750 will be released to the CDRA according to the stipulations outlined in the NOGA.

After years of negotiation, on December 9, 2021, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. signed an agreement with the Renaissance Group's Vice President of Engineering/Energy, Jehangir Zakaria. The donation of a 2.5-acre parcel of land by the Renaissance Group allows the CDRA to extend its strip and drag racing facility and enhance additional safety measures. The Bryan/Roach Administration is grateful for the endowment to the Government of the Virgin Islands. I will continue to work closely with CDRA president, Mr. Arthur Hector, to ensure the re-emergence of drag racing remains a priority. The CDRA is working closely with the Port Authority to secure liability insurance needed to resume construction.

The success of DSPR relies heavily on the relationship we have with our community. DSPR continues to form great partnerships with Government agencies and private donors. In November 2021, DSPR partnered with the Waste Management Authority to place trash receptacles in Cruz Bay, St. John. This past December, the Department had two successful clean-up days with non-profit groups. The first was held at the Emile Griffith Park. The Perkins family organization collaborated with the Department to clean, sanitize, weed, and paint the playground at the Emile Griffith Park. The second was a clean-up effort

orchestrated by the Omega Psi Phi fraternity members, cleaning the grounds and cutting the grass at the Lionel "Smut" Richards ballfield and the Lionel Roberts Stadium. On the island of St. Croix, Project Promise donated and collaborated with DSPR to install playground equipment at the Princess facility. Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority spent a day of community service painting the tables and benches at the Midre Cummings Playground. I want to thank these organizations for giving back to our community. I would also like to thank another of our great donors, Banco Popular, for its continued support. They are funding the construction of a batting cage at the DC Canegeta Ballfield.

I am incredibly proud of the construction and rebuild of the Midre Cummings Playground in Frederiksted, St. Croix. In early 2021, the Office of the Governor, DSPR, Our Town Frederiksted, and the St. Croix Education began discussing a community build project. With funding in place, on November 12, 2021, we witnessed something never done in our community before. For just two weeks, countless individuals came together with one common goal: rebuilding the playground and working alongside each other. The result is a playground that is one of a kind in the territory. I will forever be grateful to the individuals who participated in this project, no matter how big or small your contribution was. When we come together as a community, remarkable things can happen. The Midre Cummings Playground facility has been inspected by a nationally recognized certified playground inspector. The grand opening scheduled for earlier this month was postponed due to the rise in the territory's Covid-19 positivity rate. The Department will have a soft opening on February 1, 2022, allowing access to the playground. The grand opening is now tentatively scheduled for the third week in February; we look forward to seeing smiling faces. DSPR will also be relocating two employees to ensure the facility is supervised.

We are forever grateful for the assistance we receive. As the adage says, "one hand washes the other," DSPR also plays its part in assisting organizations through sponsorship.

For the fiscal year 2022, DSPR has already awarded \$40,615.00. We will continue to support non-profits and individuals whose goal is to better the quality of life for our community. A few events, programs, and organizations that we have sponsored are:

- Daddy's Day Out
- Positive Guidance Basketball Club
- Lutheran Social Services
- Emerald Gems Foundation
- Billiards Championship
- Luminare Bike Ride
- Police Athletic League's Night Out
- The Governor's Christmas Toy Give-Away
- LLacos Baseball Club
- Project Promise
- Miguel Santos' DJ (Disc Jockey) School
- The Virgin Islands Bowling Federation
- Charmain Twirlers Majorettes
- Visionaires Turkey Give-Away

There have been many great programs administered through this Department, yet, we hear concerns from individuals that felt they were not informed about our programs. We made a conscious effort to market our programs more. You can listen to the many commercials of DSPR programs played on the local radio stations and see the increased circulation of our flyers. We often even repost them several times a day on our FaceBook page so that they are seen more. The Department recently added Twitter and Instagram (@dspr_vi) profiles to our social media portfolio. Of course, we will continue to post our programs and activities in the daily periodicals. Our user-friendly website, dspr.vi.gov, also has all the department programs and activities listed. To manage that information, DSPR

recently hired its first Public Relations Officer (PRO), whose responsibility is to ensure our social media outlets are updated every day.

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the restrictions it brought did not stop the team at DSPR from providing meaningful sports and recreation for our community. For the first time in my 14-year tenure at DSPR, the team has created a six-month tentative calendar. Interested individuals can now see what the Department has to offer months in advance. The calendar below is just another tool provided by the Department to assist parents in planning activities for their children.

TERRITORIAL		
EVENT NAME	DATES/TIMES	LOCATIONS
<i>Dates are subject to change due to the climate of the COVID19 Pandemic</i>		
Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Baseball/Softball Program	January 1 to December 31, 2022 Game times vary, a schedule available in the main office	St. Croix DC Canegata Ballpark/Reinholdt Jackson Ballpark St. Thomas Emile Griffith/Joseph Aubain/Kerwin Terrace/ Lionel Roberts Ballpark
7 on 7 High School Air It Out Football Skills Challenge	January 28 - 30, 2022 4 pm & 11 am	St. Croix Central High School St. Thomas Smith Bay Ballpark
DSPR Biggest Loser II Weight Loss Competition	Registration Ongoing Deadline January 31, 2022	St. Croix DC Canegata Center St. Thomas Winston Raymo Center
Governmental & Industrial Co-ed Softball League	Registration Ongoing February – April 2022 6 pm to 10 pm	St. Croix DC Canegata Ballpark St. Thomas Emile Griffith/Joseph Aubain Ballpark
Kick, Throw, & Go Football Skills Challenge	March 25-27, 2022 4 pm, 11 am, 2 pm	STX Educational Complex Field STT Smith Bay Ballpark

RBI Baseball Tournament	July 27-31, 2022	St. Croix DC Canegata Ballpark
ST. CROIX		
EVENT NAME	DATES/TIMES	LOCATIONS
<i>Dates are subject to change due to the climate of the COVID19 Pandemic</i>		
Senior Fit Lot Exercise Program	December 13, 2021, to April 22, 2022 9 am -10 am Mon./Wed./Fri.	Altona Lagoon
Football Skills Clinic ages 8-13	Dec. 13-April 1, 2022 4 pm – 6 pm; Mon./Wed./Fri.	Isaac Boynes Ballpark
9-12 Baseball/Softball Clinic	January 31 to April 9, 2022 4 pm - 5:30 pm; Mon./Wed.	DC Canegata Ballpark Reinholdt Jackson Ballpark Rudy Krieger Ballpark
T-Ball Clinics ages 3-8	February 1 to March 10, 2022 4 pm - 5:30 pm; Tues/Thur.	DC Canegata Ballpark Reinholdt Jackson Ballpark Rudy Krieger Ballpark
Basketball Clinics ages 6-18	February 22 to March 31, 2022 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm- Mon./Wed.	DC Canegata Courts Reinholdt Jackson Courts
Take Me Fishing ages 8 & up	February to March 2022 Wed. to Sat. 9 am -11 am; 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Altona Lagoon Ann E. Abramson Pier
Senior Cultural Day	March 29, 2022 9 am to 3 pm	DC Canegata Center
13U Volleyball Clinic	March 7-April 2, 2022 Mon to Fri. 4 pm to 6 pm	STX Central High Gym Juanita Gardine Gym
Marble Tournament ages 6-13	April 2 & 9, 2022 2 pm	DC Canegata Ballpark Reinholdt Jackson Ballpark
Learn 2 Swim	April to May 2022 Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm	Altona Lagoon Frederiksted Beach
Kite Flying Competition	May 7, 2022 10 am-4 pm	Estate Great Pond
Kickball Tournament	May 21, 2022 9 am until	DC Canegata Ballpark
ST. THOMAS		
EVENT NAME	DATES/TIMES	LOCATIONS
<i>Dates are subject to change due to the climate of the COVID19 Pandemic</i>		
Modeling rehearsal/practice	Present to February 11, 2022 Every other Saturday	Winston Raymo Center

	6:00pm to 8:00pm	
Fitness Training (open)	Present to February 11, 2022 Mon. to Fri. 6 pm - 8 pm	Winston Raymo Center
Rugrats Baseball Ages 3 to 5	Present to February 28, 2022 Mon. & Wed. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Joseph Aubain
6-8/9-12 Baseball Clinics	February 1 to February 17, 2022 5:00 pm - 7 pm Tues to Thurs.	Al McBean Complex
6-8/9-12 Softball Clinics	February 7 to March 18, 2022 4:30 pm - 6 pm Mon. to Thurs	Emile Griffith Ballpark
Joe "JoeMeat" Sprauve 9-12 Baseball Tournament with 6-8 Pee wee Baseball Games	February 18 to February 21, 2022 4:30 pm	Al McBean Complex
Governmental & Industrial Co- ed Softball League	February 21 – April 3, 2022 6 pm to 10 pm	Emile Griffith/Joseph Aubain Ballpark
Dance Classes Ages 6 to 14	February 21 to April 14, 2022 Mon toThurs. 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Location TBD
Rugrats Track/Field Ages 3 to 5	March 14 to April 22, 2022 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Mon. & Wed.	Joseph Aubain or Lionel Roberts Stadium
Take Me Fishing	May 2022 to June 2022 4 pm - 6 pm Tues/Thurs. 10 am - 12 pm Saturdays	Waterfront Dock and/or CrownBay Dock area
Learn to Swim	April 2022 to May 2022 9 am -12 pm Saturdays	Brewer's Beach

ST. JOHN

EVENT NAME	DATES/TIMES	LOCATIONS
<i>Dates are subject to change due to the climate of the COVID19 Pandemic</i>		
6-10 Boys Baseball Clinic	December 2021 – February 28, 2022	Gifft Hill Field
Coed Basketball 12U	December 2021 – February 28, 2022	Orville Brown Basketball Court
8 & up Tennis Clinic	December 2021 – February 28, 2022	Cruz Bay Tennis Court
8 & up Mocko Jumbie clinic	December 2021 – February 28, 2022	Cruz Bay Tennis Court

Early in the Pandemic, the CDC categorized sports by transmission risk; high-risk, medium risk, or low risk. Additionally, the Department of Health (DOH) made recommendations based on these categories. DSPR took a close look at what sports were allowed and what were not. One of the newest and more extensive programs we established is the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities or RBI baseball program. RBI is an outreach program created by Major League Baseball, run by the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation, to create a love for baseball and softball and use that love to foster



the value of teamwork, achieving achievement goals, academic excellence, and community service. We are hard at work creating opportunities for our athletes to sharpen their skills, especially those student-athletes who have suffered over the past two years due to playing restrictions brought on by the global Pandemic.

The RBI program aims to motivate participants to stay in school and pursue post-secondary education. RBI has been embraced in many communities because it teaches children that success in life takes more than succeeding on the ballfield; it also means achieving in the classroom and the community. All student-athletes registered in DSPR's RBI program must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse or the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA Eligibility Center is the arm of the NCAA responsible for determining the academic eligibility and amateurism status for Division I and Division II student-athletes. DSPR's RBI student-athletes also have access to the Major League Baseball Charities, Inc. RBI Scholarship Fund, which provides annual scholarships

of up to \$5,000 for up to twelve RBI student-athletes who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership qualities, financial need, and wish to pursue secondary education.

DSPR's RBI Junior Softball 16U Division has four teams, two from St. Croix and two from St. Thomas/St. John. The Junior Baseball 15U Division has five teams, two from St. Croix and three from St. Thomas/St. John. The Senior Baseball 16-23 Division has three teams from St. Croix and two teams from St. Thomas. It is particularly important to note that this is a *territorial league*, which means all teams play against each other territory-wide. Since the start of the RBI program, there have been twelve inter-island baseball games and eight inter-island softball games. I want to thank all volunteers and employees involved in making inter-island play a reality, especially during the Pandemic. Thank you to the Department of Health for supporting us to ensure that we travel and play as safely as possible.

At the end of our successful six-week, entirely in-person 2021 Summer Program, DSPR resumed offering more recreational and sporting programs. A few of these are as follows:

ST. CROIX	
Program Name	Dates
DSPR RBI Program	August 2021 to December 2021
King of the Courts	September 11, 2021 - Profit October 22, 2021 – Marley November 19, 2021 – Red Brick December 17, 2021 - Whim
Beach Clean-Up @ Cramer's Park	Oct. 2, 2021, to November 13, 2021 (Saturdays)
DSPR Elite Boys Basketball	October 1, 2021- December 2021
Basic Baseball Clinic	Oct. 4 to Dec. 17, 2021
GVI Jerusalem Dance Challenge (Territory Wide)	October 12, 2021

Senior Exercise Workout Program & FitLot Program	October 18, 2021 – April 22, 2022
Afterschool Tennis Clinic	October 19-November 26, 2021
Basketball Clinic for Beginners	Nov. 3 to Dec. 10, 2021
Behind the Lights Baseball & Softball Camp	November 6-7, 2021
Take Me Fishing	November 10-December 18, 2021
Fundamentals Football Clinic	December 28-30, 2021

St. Thomas/St. John

Program Name	Date/Location
12U Baseball Clinics	August 2021 to present (Tuesdays) Gift Hill Field
DSPR RBI Program	August 2021 to December 2021
8 and up Tennis Clinics	September 2021 to present Cruz Bay Tennis Court
DSPR Fitness Training	September 2021 to present Winston Raymo Center
GVI Jerusalem Dance Challenge (Territory Wide)	October 12, 2021
Modeling rehearsal/practice	October 29 to December 17, 2021 (Saturdays) Winston Raymo
Rugrats Baseball (3 to 5)	November 2021 to present Joseph Aubain
8 and up Mocko Jumbie clinic	November 2021 Cruz Bay Tennis Court
16 and under 3-on-3 Basketball Clinics/Challenge	November 2021 to December 2021 Orville Brown Basketball Court
12U Baseball Clinics	November 16 to December 3, 2021, Joseph Aubain
Trevor Joseph Baseball Tournament	December 3-5, 2021, Joseph Aubain
8U Peewee Baseball Games	December 3-5, 2021, Joseph Aubain
DSPR RBI Baseball (Territory-wide) Coaches' Clinic	December 17- 20, 2021 Winston Raymo Center/Lionel Roberts Stadium
12U and 8U Baseball Clinics	December 21, 2021, to present (COVID delayed) Al McBean Rec. Center
Fundamentals Football Clinic	December 28-30, 2021, Smith Bay Ballfield

As always, I want to thank the hard-working employees at the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation. The Senior Leadership Team continues to find innovative ways to celebrate, encourage and show our appreciation to our employees. On July 2, 2021, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. issued a proclamation designating July 2021, Sports, Parks, and Recreation Month in the Virgin Islands in conjunction with National Park and Recreation Month, which celebrates an official day of recognition, "Park and Recreation Professionals Day," on Friday, July 16. "Our local parks and beaches and recreational facilities are often our first experiences with nature, our introduction to a favorite hobby or physical activity," the proclamation said. "They are places to gather with friends and family, spaces to celebrate life's special moments, spots of quiet reflection and healing, sites that connect us with essential community services, and so much more." Governor Bryan's proclamation also noted the role parks play during the long COVID-19 Pandemic and lockdown. "Local parks have been essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many of our community members finding a new appreciation for the essential spaces the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation manages and the vital, high-quality programs it provides," the proclamation says. "The Department of Sports, Parks and



Recreation employees play a vital role in maintaining and enhancing the health, safety, and welfare of all Virgin Islands residents."

To further build morale and team building, the Senior Leadership Team at DSPR organized an Employee Appreciation Fun Day filled with team-building activities on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. The idea was to bring all employees together from across the territory in one location to celebrate as one team. The Fun Day was a small token to show how thankful we are to our employees. We wanted to recognize the hard-working men and women of the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation who are committed to the continued effort of providing recreation and leisure activities to the Virgin Islands community.

Thank you for listening to my testimony; my team and I are ready to answer any questions you may have.