



**GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol
Commissioner
Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library
St. Thomas, USVI 00801

RE: Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDOH) Request for Coastal Consistency Determination for Women, Infants and Children Knud Hansen Complex

Dear Commissioner Oriol:

The Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDOH) respectfully requests a review and decision on the Coastal Consistency required for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Knud Hansen Rebuild project. The VIDOH is proposing complete demolition of the existing structure, followed by the construction of the replacement building. The WIC Knud Hansen Building is located at 1309 Hospital Ground, St. Thomas USVI. The WIC Knud Hansen building facilities suffered extensive damage from Hurricane s Irma and Maria in 2017, compromising the Department of Health's operations and ability to serve its clients on the island of St. Croix and across the territory. In turn, Knud Hanen Building was assessed and awarded a grant (FNS-529through the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service Program (USDA FNS) to assist in the repair and restoration of buildings, equipment, technology, and other infrastructure damages as a consequence of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

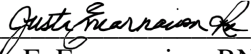
The replacement building will be a resilient public health facility that enables everyone to achieve optimal health nutrition services. It will provide Women, Infants and children (WIC) services and resources to support the public health needs of the territory in a centralized, accessible hub for the community. The new facility will ultimately support the Department of Health in their mission of increasing access to health and wellness services for those who are underserved or otherwise experience barriers to obtaining healthcare.

Preliminary information about the project was reviewed during the CZM Pre-application Meeting held on June 21, 2021. The demolition scope includes a full clearing of the structure on the site. No lead or asbestos were found above federal threshold standards within any of the existing structures; therefore, abatement will not be required prior to demolition. The replacement building design has been completed and is approximately 3,000 square feet.

The proposed Knud Hansen WIC demolition and reconstruction project is essential for restoring comprehensive public health and nutrition services for St. Thomas and the broader territory. The new facility will provide a safe and reliable building that will promote the health of the DOH clients and patients, team, and broader community. It will be a facility that the community relies on during moments of vulnerability, and the structure itself will demonstrate strength and resilience for generations to come.

Please find attached a project summary and additional materials demonstrating the project's progression and compliance with the U.S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Your approval and support of this matter would have a significant positive impact on the timeline of this critical infrastructure project and be appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Deputy Commissioner of Health Reuben Molloy, MBA/HCM LSSBB at 340-626-5686 or reuben.molloy@doh.vi.gov.

Sincerely,



Justa E. Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM
Health Commissioner and Chief Public Health Officer
Virgin Islands Department of Health

Date: 5/2/2022