

October 25, 2019

Mrs. Lucia R. Francis
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Subject: The St. John Marina; YCSE -

Dear:

I am a native St. Johnian and a permanent resident of the United States Virgin Islands, St. Thomas-St. John District. I am writing in support of the St. John Marina Development for Coral Harbor in Coral Bay, St. John.

First, I want to commend the native family whose concern is to contribute positively to the economic revitalization of the town of Coral Bay. This family is not only leasing the land location for this development but are also co-developers of this project. Therefore, the family retain ownership title to the land. Secondly, this development for Coral Bay stands to correct several major environmental issues. They are as follows:

1. **A pump-out facility** for the liver-aboard boaters who have taken recreational vessels and made them their permanent residence. Currently, most of these vessels is pumping raw sewage into Coral Harbor and has contributed to the dumping of raw sewage into thereby contributing to the pollution of Coral Harbor, more so than any run-off due to rainfall. By having a pump-out facility, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Enforcement can now enforce the marine laws governing dumping raw sewage into the Territory marine habitat.
2. **The mooring field for Coral Harbor**, which lacks organization will be organize, thus allowing for more vessels to be moored and the correct mooring equipment to be used that lessen the impact on the marine environment. Many boaters have used destructive methods to more their vessels that have caused blowout and damaged to the grass beds in Coral Harbor. Also, the issues of sunken, derelict vessels and unseaworthy vessels and establishing a clear navigational channel will be address and resolve.
3. This Development plans to **mitigate the runoff from the surrounding hillsides** and reused this water, thereby lessening the impact of silt buildup in the bay area.
4. Economically, this Development will bring with **it new jobs** for the local St. Johnians; it brings with it a fuel dock for boaters; it will bring a fishers and farmers market facility where the local fishermen and farmers may sell their produce in a facility that meets the health (sanitary) codes of the United States Virgin Islands; it will provide docking and other services for visiting luxury yachts visiting of St. John; and it will provide apprenticeship

and economic mentoring program for the local indigenous St. Johnians and other interested residents of Coral Bay.

5. As a child, Coral Harbor was an area where I swam for recreation; it was an area where my father fished and caught very large Virgin Snappers that fed more than his family; it was an area where the residents could have eaten the marine life that was found in the Harbor which was pristine in its water quality. Currently, I will not eat anything caught in Coral Harbor due to the long term dumping of raw sewage into Coral Harbor thereby contributing to the pollution and poor water quality of Coral Harbor.

The issues of Coral Harbor are not new to me; I served as the Director and Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources from the mid-1990s to January 2007. The Division was in the process of negotiating a mobile pump-out service for all mooring areas in the St. Thomas-St. John District. I am unaware if these negotiations were continued.

With the establishment of the St. John Marina, I look forward to a beautifully laid out marina that will be instrumental in the restoration of pristine water quality; the removal of all derelict sunken vessels which pollutes and poses a navigational hazards in Coral Harbor; I look forward to this St. John Marina adding and enhancing the beauty of this particular location in Coral Bay; I look forward to the luxurious yachts visiting Coral Harbor and contributing to the revitalization of Coral Bay; and I look forward to responsible boaters being provided with pump-out and other relevant services that bring them into compliance with our local marine and trash disposal laws.

This project has assisted our local government, the Government of the United States Virgin Islands by financing and completing the necessary marine biological studies for this area which is classified as "An Area of Particular Concern" in order for this St. John Marina to be considered as a viable development.

Keeping these issue and concerns in mind, I am asking the Senators of the 33rd Legislature of the Virgin Islands to fully support the development of the St. John Marina, by giving your approval. Please, assist us in making the St. John Marina a reality for Coral Bay community of St. John.

Sincerely,

Lucia R. Francis