



*The Honorable
Nereida Rivera O'Reilly
Senator*

The Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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FREDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX, U.S.V.I.
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September 16, 2015

Hand Delivery and Email

Honorable Neville A. James
Senate President
31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands
100 Lagoon Complex
Frederiksted, VI 00840

Re: Acquisition of the Innovative Building

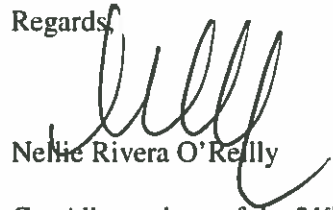
Dear Senate President James:

Bill number 31-0113 is attached. This measure provides for the acquisition of the Innovative Building by the government for a Mental Health facility. I understand that members of the majority recently toured the building and that plans are afoot to acquire the property for the relocation of the Frists E. Lawaetz Legislative Complex.

Please note that our office has been working on this initiative for several months. The bill was assigned to the Committee on Finance on May 20, 2015. We have met with all stakeholders, including the owners, to ensure complete buy-in. The needs of the mentally ill are serious and pressing and this bill seeks to finally address the longstanding issues. As policy makers, we cannot continue to talk about the problems and fail to take action.

The governor, in his State of the Territory, highlighted his commitment to address mental illness in our community. The chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services also held a hearing to discuss the status of mental illness with members agreeing to take immediate action. The recent actions of the majority members demonstrate a lack of total disregard for the pre-emption rules of the legislature. The people of this territory expect us to create jobs and to pass legislation that will positively impact and cure societal ills. To consider spending millions of dollars to relocate the St. Croix legislature is simply appalling and a slap in the face of our constituents.

Regards,


Nereida Rivera O'Reilly

Cc: All members of the 31st Legislature

MEMBER
*Committee on Homeland Security,
Justice & Public Safety*

MEMBER
*Committee on
Government Services,
Consumer and Veterans Affairs*

MEMBER
*Committee on Economic Development,
Agriculture and Planning*

MEMBER
Committee on Rules and Judiciary

MEMBER
*Committee on Health, Hospitals and
Human Services*

BILL NO. 31-0113

Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands

May 20, 2015

An Act authorizing the Department of Property and Procurement, on behalf of the Government, to negotiate for and purchase Plot No's. 7G and 7-H Estate Diamond, Queen Quarter, St. Croix for use as a mental health facility

PROPOSED BY: Senator Nereida Rivera O'Reilly

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Department of Property and Procurement, on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands, in compliance with 31 V.I.C 231a (c), may negotiate for and purchase the building and real property where the Innovative building is located on Plot Nos. 7G and 7-H Estate Diamond, Queen Quarter, St. Croix, as more fully shown on PWD 3363-A dated January 20, 1980, and revised February 20, 1990, for use as a mental health facility.

SECTION 2. The Department of Property and Procurement shall finance the purchase of the real property described in section 1 from the Business and Commercial Properties Revolving Fund under 31 V.I.C. §202(b).

BILL SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the Department of Property and Procurement, on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands, to negotiate for the purchase of Plot No's 7G and 7-H Estate Diamond, Queen Quarter, St. Croix, for use as a mental health facility.

BR15-0102/April 01, 2015/GC/