



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

ST. THOMAS • ST. CROIX • ST. JOHN

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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CARLTON DOWE SELECTED AS VI PORT AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Virgin Islands Port Authority Board of Governors has named Carlton Dowe as the Authority's new executive director. The decision was made at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting held today at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Terminal on St. Croix. Dowe was chosen from among the top three finalists interviewed for the director position. Dowe, who previously served as the Agency's director from 2013-2016, will return to VIPA on July 8, 2019.

Board Chairperson **Leona Smith** said, "As a former executive director of the Port Authority, Mr. Dowe has a keen understanding of the operations of the Authority. He also has a proven track record of providing tangible results." Smith added, "Dowe brings a wealth of experience and we are pleased to have him return to lead this agency at this most critical juncture. He is just the person we need to address the myriad of issues plaguing the Port – especially at our airports."

Some of Dowe's many accomplishments during his previous tenure at VIPA include:

- Successfully negotiating a 10-year berthing agreement with Royal Caribbean Cruise Line at the Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal in Crown Bay.
- Led VIPA's management team in the successful refinancing of its 2003 marine bonds at a savings of approximately \$2.4 million. The bonds financed are funding the refurbishment of the Gallows Bay Marine Terminal; bulkhead dredging of the Schooner Bay Channel to facilitate the berthing of small cruise ships in Christiansted; developing a paid parking facility in Cruz Bay; constructing a U.S.

Customs and Border Protection facility and a multi-level parking garage at the Red Hook Terminal.

- Under Dowe's leadership, VIPA secured a U.S. Department of Transportation "TIGER" Grant for the first time in the agency's history to be used to complete seaport projects.
 - Dowe lobbied for passage of legislation into law that allowed: limits not to exceed \$75,000 in claims against VIPA relating to injury, loss of property, personal injury or death (a tremendous savings to VIPA in liability cash); and allowed VIPA to collect the entire \$1 of the Marine Terminal Tax, which resulted in \$1.1 million in new revenue (VIPA previously only received 30 cents).
 - VIPA received discretionary funding from the Federal Aviation Administration for the first time in 11 years under his leadership.
 - Recommended and implemented with the approval of the Board an increase in ship dues and wharfage for inter-island travel between St. Thomas/St. John and the BVI. This was the first increase of these fees in over 18-20 years, resulting in a 78% increase in ships dues and a 133% increase in wharfage over a four-month period compared to the same period the previous year. The increase generated \$800,000 in additional revenues for VIPA.
 - Recommended and implemented with the approval of the Board an increase in docking fees from 60 cents to \$1 per vessel linear foot – an additional \$300,000 annually in revenues.
 - Recommended the selection of a new insurance broker, which saved VIPA in brokerage fees and 25% in cash savings of annual insurance premiums.
 - Implemented a \$2 per day customer facility charge for rental cars which resulted in an additional \$500,000 in new revenue.
 - Obtained permits from the Coastal Zone Management Commission for the dredging of Gallows Bay and Crown Bay Marina.
 - For the first time in nine years, VIPA completed its financial statements and single audits on time under his leadership, which was also the first time a Passenger Facility Charges audit was conducted.
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- Implemented human resources programs for VIPA employees, completed union negotiations and fulfilled outstanding contractual obligations that brought all contracts current, satisfied all retroactivity and resulted in unionized employees being paid on their correct grade and step.

Dowe's professional life is marked with public service. He has over 25 years of management experience serving as a firefighter who rose through the ranks to become the youngest fire chief in Virgin Islands history, as a Deputy U.S. Marshal and Director of the Virgin Islands Fire Service and five terms as a senator representing the St. Thomas/St. John district during the 24th, 25th, 27th, 28th and 29th Legislatures. Dowe has an Associate of Science degree in fire service and technology and an Associate of Arts degree in fire administration from Miami-Dade Community College; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice from the City University of New York.

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The Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) is an autonomous, self-sustaining government agency established in 1969 as the owner and manager of the United States Virgin Island's airports and seaports. VIPA owns and manages 14 seaports, two airports, and surrounding properties. It is a critical arm of the USVI's economy that facilitates travel and commerce and fosters tourism and economic growth via its port activities. VIPA's mandate is to develop and maintain the ports of the USVI to accommodate the current and future demands of our users, and to provide safe port facilities.
