



News Release

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VIPA Issues Statement Correcting Report Regarding Denial of Federal Funding for STX Airport Repairs

Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director Kenn Hobson issued a statement today regarding incorrect information printed in today's issue of The Virgin Islands Daily News regarding the Port Authority's application for federal funding to repair the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport runway on St. Croix.

Hobson said the article printed on page six of The Virgin Islands Daily News titled 'FAA Rejects VI Request for Funds to Upgrade St. Croix Runway' is not completely accurate. Hobson did state in the VIPA board meeting held yesterday that in the past the Port Authority was denied funding because of issues relating to the closure of the nearby Anguilla Landfill. However, the request to repair the HERA runway has not yet been submitted to the FAA and VIPA still plans to seek federal assistance to fund the project.

"Approximately 3,000 feet of the 10,000 feet runway at HERA is deteriorating," said Hobson. "VIPA plans to apply for a \$13 million grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to make the necessary repairs and ensure safety standards are met at the

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St. Croix airport." he said. VIPA will ask the FAA to consider its request based on plans presented by the VI Waste Management Authority to close the Anguilla Landfill by the end of the summer. The Anguilla landfill sits on Port Authority-owned property but is managed by the VI Waste Management Authority. VIWMA is responsible for the closure of the facility.

Hobson added that VIWMA may not be able to meet its summer 2010 deadline. However, the Port Authority is hoping that the FAA considers the urgency of the repairs needed for the HERA runway when making its decision to approve the grant application. If approved, the FAA will fund 95 percent of the project and the Port Authority will fund the remainder from its fiscal year 2011 budget, said Hobson.

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