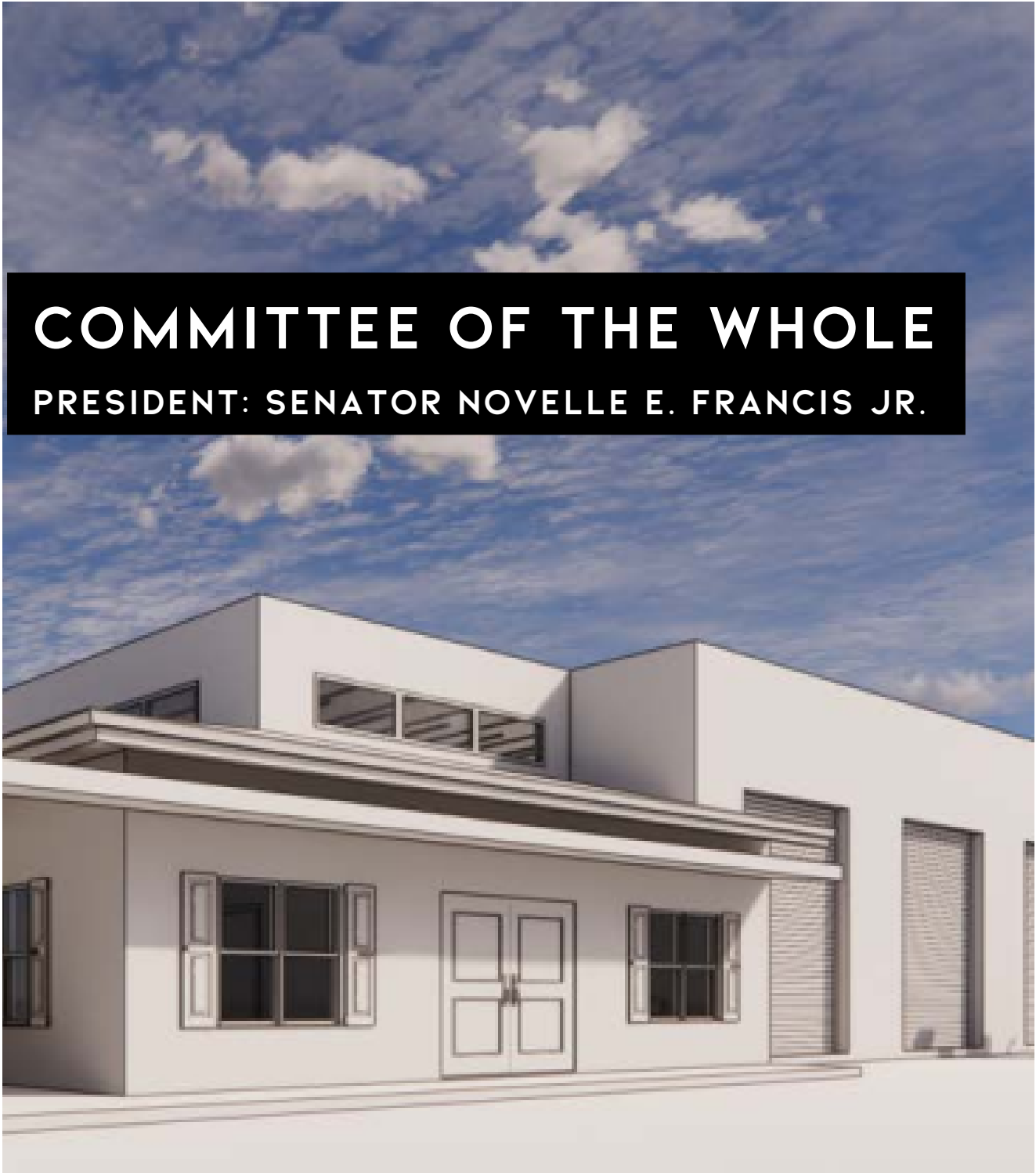


Derek Gabriel  
Commissioner  
Department of Public Works  
DPW.VI.GOV



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**PRESIDENT: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS JR.**



Good morning Senate President Novelle Francis Jr., Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole; members of the Committee and other senators in attendance, as well as the listening and viewing public. I am Derek Gabriel, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works (DPW). With me today are District Engineer Jermaine McClean, OHE Program Manager Jomo McClean, and Jeffrey Boschulte of the Boschulte Design Studio, our design consultant.

We are here today to provide testimony on:

1. Department of Public Works – BR24-0995 Request to rezone Parcel No. 6A Susannaberg, Cruz Bay on the island of St. John from R-2 - Low-Density Residential to P (Public).

The Department of Public Works is seeking to rezone this property to bring it into zoning compliance, as well as to allow for the demolition and construction of the Department of Public Works Maintenance Building on St. John.

The Government of the United States Virgin Islands has owned and operated this property for over forty (40) years. The property currently serves as the St. John VITRAN headquarters and the site of our hurricane-damaged DPW Maintenance Building. The site is adjacent to the V.I. Waste Management Authority's transfer station, which was rezoned from R-2 to P in 2022. VITEMA and Island Green Living Association's Resource Depot and recycling center are also housed on the property. Both Waste Management's and Public Work's facilities are situated on the site of the former Susannaberg Landfill, which was eventually closed after it caught fire and burned for six months in the 1990s.

Our team is proposing a rezoning from the original zoning designation R-2 Low-Density Residential, which does not allow for offices, storage, or mechanic repairs, to zoning designation P-Public, which allows for the intended uses described.

The new building will include several bays for DPW vehicles and equipment, office space, a new wastewater treatment system, an above-ground cistern, a paved parking area, a waste oil collection facility, and a small retention pond for runoff.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we will remain available to answer any questions you may have.