



# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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## WAPA Recognized with Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation™

**U.S. Virgin Islands – February 13, 2023** – Cigna has selected the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) as a recipient of their Bronze level Healthy Workforce Designation for demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the health and well-being of its employees through a workplace wellness program.

The Authority engaged its employees in health and wellness activities, provided discounted rates on gym memberships, conducted webinar sessions to aid employees and their families in improving their overall health and wellness, and had tremendous participation at fitness activities hosted by the Government of the Virgin Islands Personnel division, including Battle of the Agencies.

“Cigna’s Healthy Workforce designation is a testament to the Authority’s efforts to create a more balanced work environment at the benefit of our employee’s health and wellness. The Human Resources Department will continue to improve its initiatives to focus on providing a healthy work environment for all employees including those that work in safety sensitive areas, such as, our plant personnel, lineworkers, and other operators in the field and labs,” said Sabrina King-Leonce, Human Resources Director.

“At WAPA, employee health is our top priority; we are honored to be recognized with the Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation” said CEO Andrew Smith, VI WAPA. “We understand the important role employee well-being plays in a company’s success and the relationship between healthy employees contributing to a more productive, satisfied workforce and positive performance,” added CEO Smith.

Investing in an effective workplace well-being program drives value for employers. Senior executives surveyed as part of an [Economist Impact study](#) commissioned by Cigna reported greater productivity, stronger staff morale and motivation, and greater retention and loyalty as the most significant business outcomes of a healthy workforce. Additionally, a [Gallup Report](#) finds that on average, companies with high employee engagement are 23 percent more profitable.

“As a consultative growth partner, Cigna knows that a healthy workforce is critical to business growth,” said Cindy Ryan, CIGNA’s executive vice president and chief human resources officer. “We are honored to recognize organizations like the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority

who share our commitment to workplace wellness. Creating a healthy work culture is of critical importance, and many employers are seeing increased employee engagement, productivity, and retention as a result of whole person health wellness initiatives.”

The Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation, formerly known as the Cigna Well-Being Award, evaluates organizations based on the core components of their well-being program, including leadership and culture, program foundations, program execution, and whole person health. Organizations recognized with this designation set the standard of excellence for whole-organization health. Cigna is proud to honor the VI Water and Power Authority with the Bronze level designation for having made good progress towards a healthy work culture by establishing and growing their employee well-being and engagement program.

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**About WAPA:** The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.

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