



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

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## **Authority Announces CFO Transition**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) announces that Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jacob “Jake” Lewis has resigned from his role with the Authority to pursue a new professional opportunity. Jake has been an integral part of the team, contributing significantly to the development of the Authority’s [Strategic Plan](#) and efforts to achieve financial stability. Mr. Lewis will remain with the Authority until the end of the year to ensure a seamless transition.

“I have worked with Jake since 2015 and I am sorry to see him go. He has been a tremendous asset to WAPA and has contributed to significant improvement not only in the Authority’s finance function, but also across the entire organization. He approached his work with a deep commitment and the highest integrity, and I thank him for that. I believe I speak for the entire WAPA family in wishing Jake and his family the best of luck in his new role.” said CEO Andrew Smith.

Stepping into the role of Interim CFO is the Authority’s current Director of Accounting/Comptroller, Lorraine Kelly. Interim CFO Kelly brings with her a wealth of experience and a strong financial background, with over 30 years of expertise in finance and accounting management, including prior CFO experience in her previous capacity including at ASHINC Corporation and as Partner at Tatum LLC.

“Interim CFO Kelly joined WAPA about one year ago and has been instrumental in helping drive the turnaround of the Authority. Like Jake, she brings a deep commitment to her work and works with the highest integrity. Her background will be a great asset in her new role, and I look forward to working closely with her to continue the turnaround of WAPA.” said CEO Andrew Smith.

Kelly’s accomplishments include spearheading finance and compliance initiatives that have steered financially challenged companies toward stability and growth. Recognized for her excellence in the field, Interim CFO Kelly received numerous accolades including, the top consultant at Tatum, the CEO Award of Excellence at Verizon, and esteemed recognitions for embodying the highest standards of character and integrity within her work and community. Most recently in 2023, Interim CFO Kelly was awarded by *Marquis Who’s Who* as *Who’s Who Women “Professional Women of Influence”* and *Who’s Who in America* awards. Her philanthropic efforts spanning two decades with organizations like Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Girl Scouts, Zonta International, and UNICEF underscore her commitment to advancing the status of women and children, while combatting domestic violence and human trafficking. Interim CFO Kelly resides on St. Thomas with her husband and one of two daughters currently enrolled at the University of the Virgin Islands.

The Authority expresses immense gratitude to Mr. Lewis for his contributions and extends a warm welcome to Interim CFO Kelly. We are confident that under Mrs. Kelly's guidance, WAPA will continue to thrive and achieve its strategic objectives.

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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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