



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Authority Releases Statement on the Employee Appreciation Event for the Holidays

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) would like to provide clarifying information regarding the Authority’s decision to host its employee Christmas party at the Castle in St. Croix.

The Christmas party was only made possible through the discounted rates received from businesses in the community. The event was not funded through taxpayer dollars as an autonomous governmental instrumentality. Furthermore, much of the funding was provided through Wellness Funds contributed to WAPA by CIGNA, WAPA’s healthcare insurer, for employee wellness/welfare events. The out-of-pocket cost to the Authority for both its St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix events was approximately \$12,000 in total.

“As we continue our commitment to prioritize team building and improve employee morale and recruit and retain our highly talented workforce, I believe it is critical to acknowledge and celebrate the WAPA Family, many of whom spend significant time away from loved ones in order to serve the community, often in hazardous duty,” said Andrew Smith, Chief Executive Officer of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority. “I truly believe that our employees have earned these celebrations as a result of the dedication they have displayed.” The decision to select the Castle came after extensive efforts to locate a venue capable of accommodating 200+ individuals on the selected date. It was decided to proceed with the Castle after the Castle management graciously donated the venue in support of the hardworking employees here at the Authority.

The Authority is humbled and grateful for the contributions from the community that are helping provide employees with their first holiday party in four years.

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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.

