

**Virgin Islands Enterprise Zone Commission
Decision Meeting of Thursday, June 24, 2021
Summary**

During the Enterprise Zone Commission (“EZC”) Governing Board Meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2021, the EZC Governing Board heard recommendations from staff regarding one (1) application matter, two (2) compliance matters, and two (2) administrative matters in regular session, and voted as follows:

Regular Session:

• **Action Items:**

1. **APPLICATIONS:**

• **Lydia Rodriguez – EZC Tax Credit Program (Frederiksted Enterprise Zone)**

Lydia Rodriguez has applied for Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Program to a complete rehabilitation of 45 King Street, Frederiksted, St. Croix. The applicant’s building is located within the Frederiksted Enterprise Zone. She is the owner of the property and has committed to investment \$80,000.00 and employ two (2) temporary employees. This project will complete the rehabilitation a two-story building.

The Governing Board voted (4 – 0) to:

1. Find Lydia Rodriguez is eligible for the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Program.
2. Find Lydia Rodriguez deserving of a grant of tax incentive benefits for 45 King Street, Frederiksted, St. Croix.
3. Grant Lydia Rodriguez tax incentives benefits at 100% of the benefits authorized by law for a period of 10 years in accordance with the provisions of Title 29 V.I. CODE ANNOTATED, Chapter 19.

2. **COMPLIANCE:**

a. **Candeya Turnbull Browne – Removal from EZC Tax Eligibility List**

Candeya Turnbull-Browne was granted benefits for construction of a building at #2B Jeggegut Gade, St. Thomas on July 16, 2012. After nine (9) years of correspondence being sent to the client, the client has failed to submit all of the requested documents in order that the EZC may carry out its duties as required in Title 29 VIC §1007(b) and §1007(d). EZC verified that no benefit under the program was taken.

The Governing Board voted (4– 0) to:

1. Find that Candeya Turnbull Browne was granted benefits for construction at #2B Jeggegut Gade, St. Thomas, USVI on July 16, 2012 but has failed to report as Section 1007(d) requires.
2. Remove Candeya Turnbull Browne from the EZC tax eligibility list.

3. Require Candeya Turnbull Browne to submit a new application should they wish to join the program in the future.

b. Keithroy & Judith Thompson – Removal for EZC Tax Eligibility List

Keithroy & Judith Thompson was granted benefits for rehabilitation at Vester Gade #22 & 23, St. Thomas, USVI on December 5, 2012. After nine (9) years of correspondence being sent to the client, the client has failed to report so that the Commission may carry out its duties as required in Title 29 VIC §1007(b) and §1007(d). EZC verified that no benefit under the program was taken.

The Governing Board voted (4 – 0) to:

1. Find Keithroy & Judith Thompson was granted benefits for rehabilitation at Vester Gade #22 & 23, St. Thomas, USVI on December 5, 2012 but has failed to report as Section 1007(d) requires.
2. Remove Keithroy & Judith Thompson from the EZC tax eligibility list.
3. Require Keithroy & Judith Thompson to submit a new application should they wish to join the program in the future.

3. Administrative:

a. Enterprise Zone Expansion – Recommendation (Savanne-Downstreet)

Staff is recommending that the Savanne-Downstreet Enterprise Zone be expanded to include critical structures which will assist in the improvement of the entire zone. Within the proposed expanded boundaries of the Savanne-Downstreet Enterprise Zone are a hotel and two guest houses that have struggled with financing for rehabilitation. These facilities were once very active spaces that brought the community together and encouraged community engagement and activism. Additionally the proposed expansion would include the potential future site of the agro-processing plant for the Savanne-Downstreet Enterprise Zone.

The Governing Board voted (4 – 0) to:

- Forward a recommended to the Governor for his consideration and approval pursuant to Title 29 V.I. CODE ANNOTATED, chapter 19 that the Savanne-Downstreet Enterprise Zone as defined be expanded.

b. Commercial Zone Creation – Recommendation (St. John - Historic District of Cruz Bay)

Commercial Zone Program Law was created through requests from the community to provide incentives for rehabilitation of certain areas that would not be eligible for Enterprise Zone designation due to the lack of residential activity and thus poverty. It provides incentives to induce private investment in Commercial Zone areas by removing unnecessary governmental regulatory barriers to economic growth and providing tax incentive benefits. In order to qualify and remain eligible for the Commercial Zone Program an applicant, among other requirements, must establish or continue to maintain a business, invest at least \$75,000 in the rehabilitation of the building, employ at least four (4) residents of the VI and one (1) paid apprentice in the business.

The Governing Board voted (4 – 0) to:

- Forward a recommendation to the Governor for his consideration and approval pursuant Title 29 V.I. CODE ANNOTATED, chapter 19 that the historic town of Cruz Bay as defined be designated as a Commercial Zone.