

Community Economic Development in the US Virgin Islands

You're kidding, right?

WAPA must be properly reformed and Municipal Corporations (legal towns and cities) must be permitted, in bills enacted by the Legislature, signed into law by the Governor, and implemented with the help of the Delegate to Congress and all affected parties in the Territory, before community economic development is a viable undertaking.

Real community economic development only occurs in legal municipalities with jurisdictional boundaries with elected governing bodies, established and consistently enforced clear and uniformly-enforced planning, zoning and development entitlement ordinances, rules and regulations that reflect community design and land use standards, local jurisdictional decision-making at the staff, approval, appeal and enactment stages, time is of-the-essence strict enforcement of submission, review, decision and appeal processes and timing that the owner and its financiers can rely on, throughout all submission, review, approval, inspections and issuance of certificates of occupancy approvals.

This is essential for attracting legitimate, experienced developers with financeable projects.

These conditions do not exist in the US Virgin Islands. Political jurisdictions such as nations, states, territories and counties are not legally structured to stimulate or enable community economic development. The USVI does not have municipal governments and cannot credibly process sustainable community economic development activities “as is”.

Developers and especially their financiers demand demonstrable consistency and accountability before investing time and resources in community economic development projects. They are not speculators spending their own money.

They demand availability of suitable public and utility infrastructure to support their projects and credible enforceable commitments by the local authorities responsible for providing such infrastructure.

No jurisdiction exists in the USVI to provide such infrastructure or credible enforceable commitments.

If and when the municipal government issues are resolved, WAPA in its present condition is a deal-killer.

COMMON SENSE USVI 2026 is just such a plan, developed and proposed by the Governor Bryan-enabled Christiansted Revitalization Planning Task Force and presented to the public as a non-partisan grassroots policy initiative by BottomUpGovernment.org (BUG.vip), a pop-up citizens advocacy network enterprise.