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## Eric Sonnier Named New Executive Director of UVI RTPark

**Eric Sonnier plans to enhance community development, expand business attraction initiatives, and strengthen local and regional partnerships to drive innovation and economic growth in the Virgin Islands**

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**New RTPark Executive Director Eric Sonnier. By. RTPARK**

The UVI Research and Technology Park (RTPark) Board of Directors announced on Wednesday the appointment of Eric Sonnier as the new Executive Director, effective September 1, 2024.

Sonnier, who currently serves as the director of entrepreneurship at RTPark, will succeed Peter H. Chapman, who will depart on August 31, 2024.

According to the release, Sonnier joined RTPark in 2019 and has since led the entrepreneurship program, significantly enhancing its reach and impact. Through his leadership, the Accelerate VI program has supported 27 startups, generating over \$3 million in revenue and raising more than \$7 million in capital. His effective guidance has been instrumental in fostering high-potential enterprises within the Virgin Islands.

"I am thrilled to officially take on the role of Executive Director at RTPark," said Sonnier. "I look forward to collaborating with our talented team and community to build on our successes and propel our mission forward. Together, we will continue to drive innovation and growth, making a lasting impact on our economy."

Edward Thomas, board chairman of RTPark, expressed strong support for Sonnier's new role. "Eric Sonnier's comprehensive experience and his track record of accelerating business growth and innovation are ideally suited for leading the RTPark. His appointment is pivotal as we continue to advance our strategic goals for economic growth and technological advancement in the region," Thomas said.

Sonnier's career includes founding and leading tech-based companies such as Oliver Technology and Local Lift, as well as significant roles as a corporate strategy and operations consultant at Deloitte. He holds a bachelor of business administration from the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas in Austin and a master of business administration from Harvard Business School.

RTPark says that as it transitions to new leadership, the organization remains committed to maintaining consistency and building on the successes of the previous administration. The focus will continue to be on expanding community development efforts and enhancing business attraction initiatives. According to the release, by strengthening local and regional partnerships, RTPark aims to further its mission of developing a leading tech ecosystem in the Caribbean region.