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A Message From VIGL: We Have Ended Involvement in the Randall “Doc” James Racetrack Redevelopment

VIGL has ended its involvement in the Randall “Doc” James Racetrack redevelopment, citing legal and logistical challenges. The company has reached an agreement to return stewardship to the GVI while continuing operations in the hospitality sector.

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An early rendering of the proposed Randall 'Doc' James Racetrack redevelopment, as announced in 2016. The most recent design has yet to be disclosed.

After years of planning and negotiations, VIGL Operations LLC has announced the conclusion of its involvement in the Randall “Doc” James Racetrack (RDJ) Redevelopment Project. The company stated that it has reached an agreement with

the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands to return stewardship of the racetrack to the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation (DSPR).

The decision, which VIGL described as difficult but necessary, effectively ends the company's attempt to modernize and operate the racetrack, which was intended to revitalize horse racing in St. Croix. In a statement, VIGL made clear that it does not intend to engage in a prolonged legal battle, which could ultimately deprive the people of St. Croix of the opportunity to enjoy thoroughbred horse racing.

From the outset, VIGL asserted that it had acted in good faith to establish an economically viable and safe racing operation in the Virgin Islands. However, despite significant efforts, the company acknowledged that it was unable to achieve its goal of bringing the RDJ Racetrack project to fruition.

The redevelopment project was expected to provide a much-needed boost to the local economy, creating jobs and restoring horse racing as a major attraction on the island. However, regulatory hurdles, legal challenges, and logistical difficulties ultimately prevented the company from moving forward with the project.

VIGL extended its gratitude to several government entities and organizations that worked alongside them to revive the racing industry in the Virgin Islands. Among those acknowledged were:

- The United States Virgin Islands Senate
- The Flamboyant Horsemen Association
- The U.S. Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission
- The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Gaming Enforcement
- The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Natural Resources

The company thanked these organizations for their commitment and collaboration in attempting to bring the racetrack project to completion.

VIGL's statement also emphasized its deep appreciation for the people of the Virgin Islands, thanking them for their patience, support, and goodwill throughout the process.

While the company will no longer be involved in the RDJ Racetrack, it remains an active player in the local hospitality and gaming industry. VIGL currently operates:

- Caravelle Hotel & Casino, its flagship property in downtown Christiansted
- Company House Hotel, another historic establishment in St. Croix

Across these properties, VIGL employs 90 team members and continues to play a significant role in the tourism and gaming sectors of the Virgin Islands.