

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VIPD To Investigate Nedra Dodds And J.F.L. Officials As Scandal Takes New Turn

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ST. CROIX -- Virgin Islands Police Department Commissioner Delroy Richards [told Atlanta's CBS 46](#) on Thursday that he would meet with the territory's attorney general and district attorney to determine whether to press charges against Nedra Dodds and possibly Juan F. Luis Hospital officials, following news that Dr. Dodds was [recently indicted](#) on felony-murder charges in connection with the deaths of two patients who died after surgery at her now-defunct practice.

At least part of the investigation, if pursued, will seek to determine whether a clause in a contract signed between J.F.L. and Dr. Dodds forbids anyone who has had their license suspended from working at the facility in any capacity. If so, hospital officials involved in

the matter could find themselves in a quandary.

CBS 46 contacted the VIPD after becoming aware of The Consortium's [exclusive interview](#) with Dr. Kendall Griffith, former CEO of J.F.L., who was at the helm of the hospital when Dr. Dodds was hired. He told the publication on Tuesday that while he was ultimately held accountable for Dr. Dodds, he was not the one who invited her to work at the facility, did not know of her before she arrived at J.F.L., and even after initially refusing to hire her, she was already at the hospital without his consent looking at operations; brought by the hospital's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mavis Mathew.

The former CEO said that as a leader, he “backs up” the decisions of his subordinates, and “if things go well, they get the credit, and if things go bad, I get the blame.” But with the Nedra Dodds issue, in hindsight, “I probably could have been a bit more transparent with what actually happened. But at the time I didn’t think it was necessary because we were trying to build a strong team, be cohesive and trying to bring J.F.L. to the next level,” Dr. Griffith said.

[CBS46 News](#)

He added: “Let me just clarify, Nedra Dodds was someone I hadn’t met before. I had never met the woman before in my life. I was in the emergency room when the chief of the ER told me about this physician, and that she could help us out with processes and so forth.” Dr. Griffith said he was then told that Dr. Dodds had been having challenges with her practice in Atlanta, and he immediately refused to hire her.

“Immediately I said no. I said I’m not interested. We are too much under the CMS scrutiny to even think about bringing anybody like that into the organization. Then someone called her and told her that the CEO was in the ER, and just when I was in the parking lot getting ready to leave, I was flagged down and told that Dr. Dodds was here.

“So I had a conversation with her, and she confirmed that she had been in our hospital looking at our processes, and think that she could help. She said that she had a thriving practice in Atlanta.” Dr. Griffith said he then asked Dr. Dodds about the issue with her license in Georgia, and she confirmed that some patients had died, however it was her colleague who was responsible for those deaths. “But because I own the practice, my license is being pulled in,” Dr. Griffith said, quoting what Dr. Dodds told him.

He went on to say that at the time, the hospital was working to make the emergency room a paperless operation, but did not have an employee who could perform the task. “So I said, let me discuss it with our chief medical officer, who was the one who brought Nedra Dodds to the hospital.”

“The CMO said it was my decision,” Dr. Griffith recalled. But because Dr. Mathew was the one who brought Dr. Dodds to the hospital, he said he told her that he would trust her judgement. “The contract then showed up on my desk,” Dr. Griffith added. “So the conversation that we had had, was that she would not be licensed to practice; she would not be able to touch any patients — she was simply there to just look at the billing processes.”

Asked directly was it a mistake to hire Dr. Dodds, Dr. Griffith was direct: “Yes, it was a mistake. In hindsight I should have just left that one alone.” Dr. Griffith said he later asked

his CMO who was Dr. Dodds and how did she come to St. Croix, and was told that he was sent an email detailing her past.

"I left it alone, but I thought, something like that warrants a discussion; and an email was not good enough." And while Dr. Griffith admitted that he should have been more forthcoming, "I was just trying to be leader. I was trying to backup my colleagues, and to me, that's what a leader does. You are in charge, you are at the helm, and that's what you do. When things are bad you take the brunt of it, and when things are good, you give your subordinates the glory, and that's what I did.

"But that was one of the most difficult challenges of not only of my CEO tenure, but of my life."

Dr. Dodds has been in custody at the Cobb County, Georgia jail for seven days. According to the Cobb district attorney, no bound hearing has been set for Dr. Dodds, and she had no legal representation on file as of Thursday evening, according to CBS 46.