

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Adrienne Williams-Octalien Chosen By Bryan To Head Office of Disaster Recovery

Disaster Recovery / **Published On January 31, 2019 10:22 PM /**

Staff **January 31, 2019**



Last updated: Jan. 31, 2019 at 6:48 p.m.

Governor Albert Bryan on Thursday named Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien as director of the Office of Disaster Recovery under the Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority (VIPFA), Government House has announced.

Mrs. Williams-Octalien, a former executive director at the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, has more than 20 years of experience in the housing industry and has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since November 2017. She most recently served as the Hazard Mitigation Branch director and as FEMA's Program

Operations Sector chief of the public assistance for the Hazard Mitigation and Environmental and Historic Preservation Programs, Government House said.

“The Bryan-Roach administration is committed to continuing the recovery and rebuilding effort and to utilizing the recovery funding as mandated through the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery program to procure a more resilient infrastructure to support our economic development efforts,” Mr. Bryan said, according to Government House.

He added, “Adrienne’s career history in the housing industry, her knowledge of urban development and her successful management of hundreds of millions in federal grant funding over the years makes her the right person at the right time to serve in this capacity. Her office will be a key component in the rebuilding our Virgin Islands.”

Mrs. Williams-Octalien also formerly served as the regional asset manager and the director of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Programs with the Virgin Islands Housing Authority. While at its helm, the HCV program was designated with the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development’s (HUD) premier distinction of “high performer” and was removed from the troubled list, Government House said.

Also during her tenure at the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, Mrs. Williams-Octalien successfully led the development of seven homeownership and rental communities across the Virgin Islands that provided 332 new housing opportunities for families totaling \$69 million in development costs.

The VIHFA is charged with administering the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program with a total allocation of \$1.8 billion designated for housing, infrastructure and economic revitalization recovery initiatives -- \$779 million of which is mandated for mitigation- activities that reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.

Mrs. Williams- Octalien holds a bachelor of arts degree in mass communications and a master’s in degree urban affairs from Norfolk State University in Virginia.