

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Opinion | Open Letter to the Board Members of WAPA

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Silhouette Powerlines backlit by the afternoon sun

This letter is being penned to bring to your attention the cause of the forgotten unionized employees at WAPA. The public has been inundated with the myriad of problems and debts WAPA faces. This writer will not bore you with a reminder of those obligations owed, however there is one obligation that WAPA must make good on and it's the obligation owed to the men and women of the unions. You, the board members, have made sure the executive directors of WAPA and their team were paid on par with their stateside counterparts over the past 12 years.

As of August 15, 2019, unions have been on a day-to-day basis because they have not had a contract with WAPA in 1,800 days! What hurts is that those same unionized employees are on the front lines, day to day, in contact with the public and they deal with the upset residents who they must explain to that they too face the outrageous bills, unreliable services etc.

Board Members, the ploy of avoidance, delay and ignore should come to an immediate halt. The mistreatment and blatant disrespect of our brothers and sisters in the unions must end ASAP. Not one executive making six figures and up does so without the security of a contract, which they deem fair and just.

Governor Bryan's administration released a communication to the public with the header " Virgin Islands Pays All Outstanding Debt Owed To WAPA". In the body of the text reads the following:

"As a result of these payments, the Government of the Virgin Islands has a credit of just over \$2,000,000 that will be applied towards future WAPA services. "

Board Members, Governor Bryan just made your job \$2,000,000 easier with the credit that was disbursed to you, which was included in the total payment. At your next board meeting, begin the serious discussion since you now have \$2,000,000 extra dollars; display good faith and improve the moral of the employees at WAPA.

Submitted last week by Clarence Payne