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Bill Funding Purchase of Additional Land for Paul E. Joseph Stadium Project, Along with State of Emergency Measure Signed Into Law

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Government House announced Friday that Governor Albert Bryan has signed into law Bill No. 33-0419 — sponsored by Senator Novelle Francis — approving the government of the Virgin Islands' purchase of two parcels totaling about 6 acres in Estate La Grange on St. Croix from Dr. Rafael Garcia for \$282,187.

According to Government House, the land will be used to complete Phase II of the Frederiksted Economic Revitalization Project, which is an initiative to beautify and upgrade Frederiksted's Tourism infrastructure while maintaining the historic town's charm and cultural appearance.

Mr. Francis told the Consortium Friday that the property was originally requested by the Mapp administration and approved by the Legislature. "However the ratification was required for them to execute the purchase, so that was recently done so we moved the legislation to allow that to happen," he said.

The land will facilitate additional parking among other ancillary items. It will also address drainage mitigation, according to Mr. Francis.

Mr. Bryan also signed into law a bill that extends the current state of emergency declaration. The 33rd Legislature passed Bill No. 33-0424 on October 6 authorizing an extension until December 8 to the State of Emergency that Mr. Bryan declared in March, as the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread throughout the territory.