

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Living Trust of Former Gubernatorial Candidate Soraya Diase-Coffelt Among Groups Seeking Zoning Changes During Public Hearing March 9-22

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Between March 9-22 there will be three public hearings on proposed zoning map amendments to the Virgin Islands Official District maps. The hearings will be virtual via video conferencing.

The first will be at 10:00 a.m. in St. Thomas on March 9. The application is ZAT-22-4 and it's The Soraya Diase Coffelt Living Trust requesting that 19F-1 Rem & 19N Rem Smith Bay, Nos. 1, 2, & 3 East End Quarter, St. Thomas be rezoned from A-1 (Agricultural) to R-3 (Residential-Medium Density) and C (Commercial).

"The purpose of the request is to provide affordable housing and small to medium-sized commercial business opportunities," said a notice from the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

The second hearing will be in St. John on Monday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m. The application is labeled "ZAJ-22-2: ZAJ-22-2: The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Inc. requesting that Parcel 6R-2C Estate Carolina, No.1 Coral Bay Quarter, St. John be rezoned from C (Commercial) to B-2 (Business Secondary)."

"The purpose of the request is to build a church, community center and residences," the notice explained.

The final hearing will be back in St. Thomas on Tuesday, March 22 and the purpose of the request is to allow a commercial development comprising of retail and service businesses. The application is labeled "ZAT-22-5: Nyere A. Francis, Sr., & Leonard Bernard Francis, Jr., Esq. requesting that Parcel No. 56A Estate Smith Bay, Nos. 1, 2, 3 East End Quarter, St. Thomas be rezoned from R-2 (Residential-Low Density-One and Two Family) to B-2 (Business-Secondary/Neighborhood)."

To participate in the virtual public hearings, residents' log-in information will be provided upon registration by sending an email to leia.laplace@dpr.vi.gov with the subject line "Application ZA_-22-(insert appropriate application number) virtual hearing registration."

Following the public hearings, there must be legislative approval for the request by the relevant Senate committee.