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## WAPA Receives Three New Bucket Trucks - Just in Time to Install Lights For Miracle on Main Street Event

WAPA / **Published On December 12, 2022 07:05 AM /**

Staff Consortium **December 12, 2022**

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**WAPA linemen install lights on Main Street in St. Thomas ahead of the Dec. 16th Miracle on Mainstreet event. By. WAPA**

The V.I. Water and Power Authority announced Friday that it recently received three new Versalift bucket trucks, which WAPA says strengthens its efforts to improve operational efficiency, timely service to customers, and working conditions for its lineworkers

“The team and I have been anticipating the arrival of the new bucket trucks and are looking forward to adding more reliability to the fleet,” said Akeem Thomas, first-class electrician at WAPA. “The smallest bucket truck introduces a significant improvement to the bucket boom which can now rotate 180 degrees, making it very convenient for linemen working on poles. The

compact size also makes it easier to maneuver steep hills, with winding roads and sharp turns. Additional vehicle benefits include integrated new technology that will save on fuel and limit wear and tear on the engine.”

WAPA Director of Transmission and Distribution, Ashley Bryan, stated, “Due to ongoing issues with the fleet, our lineworkers oftentimes share only one bucket truck across the island as they work tirelessly to ensure our customers are served in a timely manner. The addition of the new bucket trucks will not only help improve service to our customers, but it will allow our employees to more safely and confidently complete their jobs. The introduction of hybrid technology thanks to the Department of Interior grant, will improve operational efficiency, reduce jobsite noise and improve safety through the utilization of an onboard battery system that operates the aerial lift device on the truck.

WAPA said its lineworkers were pleased to be able to use one of the new Versalift bucket trucks the following day, Tuesday, December 6th to hang the lights for the upcoming annual holiday event, Miracle on Main Street being held on Friday, December 16th and hosted by the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce.

One of the bucket trucks, whose price WAPA did not reveal, was fully funded by the U.S. Dept. of Interior, according to the authority.