



Virgin Islands Housing Authority

Briefing submitted to the Senior Plenary Session of the IGIA

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Public Housing Office

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Virgin Island Housing Authority Profile:

The Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA) is a public housing authority that operates under the provisions of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 and the Virgin Islands Code. The VIHA has been in HUD receivership since August 2003 until present. The PHA Executive Director is Robert Graham and Kimberly Wize, is designated by the Assistant Secretary of Public Housing as the HUD Recovery Administrator and the PHA sole-person Board.

The VIHA operates a public housing program consisting of 3,289 units. The VIHA also operates a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program with 1,469 vouchers. The VIHA 2012 occupancy rate is 82.4% which is a 6% increase from the 2011 occupancy rate of 76%.

Accomplishments:

- HUD approval of 264 Replacement Vouchers
- Waiver approval to utilize Replacement Housing Factor funds for rehabilitation of 339 vacant units
- Approval of Ralph DeChabert demolition and disposition application for the demolition of 111 dwelling units & disposition of 153 units.
- VIHA plans to construct a Senior Housing Development at Sugar Estate on St. Thomas in 2014.
- Construction of 142 units (87 Public Housing & 55 Project based vouchers) on St. Croix at the Louis E. Brown Redevelopment Phase I & II, which is the first new construction by VIHA in 20 plus years. Louis E. Brown (LEB) Redevelopment housing Phase I was a \$35 million Mixed Finance development that is fully occupied. In 2012 the \$15.3 million Mixed Finance deal for 40 elderly units at L.E.B II was approved and the groundbreaking activity conducted on December 19, 2012. LEB I was featured in Novogradac Journal of Tax Credits February 2012, Volume III, Issue II. (See attached)

Rendering for Louis E. Brown Redevelopment Project Phase I & II

