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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2026

2026 - 11

DPW Announces Leadership Transition; Rueben Jennings Named Acting Commissioner

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Department of Public Works announces that Commissioner Derek A. Gabriel will conclude his tenure as Commissioner on Friday, August 14, 2026, as he prepares to assume his new role as Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority. Governor Albert Bryan Jr. has named Assistant Commissioner Rueben Jennings to serve as Acting Commissioner of Public Works.

Gabriel has served as Commissioner since February 2021, leading the Department through more than five years of significant infrastructure investment and project delivery across the Territory. During his tenure, DPW advanced major roadway, bridge, transit and marine transportation initiatives, strengthened partnerships with federal and local agencies, and continued its mission of providing essential services to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Jennings brings extensive institutional and executive management experience to the Acting Commissioner role, having steadily advanced through the Department's leadership ranks. He previously served as Deputy Commissioner of Business and Administration before being elevated to Assistant Commissioner. Throughout his tenure at DPW, Jennings has held significant responsibility for the Department's fiscal and human resources functions, providing oversight and support across every division of the agency.



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"I want to thank Governor Bryan for the confidence he has placed in me and for the opportunity to serve as Acting Commissioner," Jennings said. "I've worked with this team for several years, and I know the commitment our employees bring to the job every day. We have a lot of important work underway, and my focus will be on supporting our employees, keeping our projects moving, and continuing to provide the services the people of the Virgin Islands depend on."

As Gabriel prepares to conclude his tenure, he reflected on his time leading the Department and the employees with whom he has served.

"Serving as Commissioner of Public Works has been the most fulfilling opportunity of my professional career," Gabriel said. "I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together, but even more grateful for the men and women of this Department who made it possible. I leave with complete confidence in Rueben, our leadership team, and every employee who will continue moving this Department forward."

The Department's executive leadership team will work closely with Acting Commissioner Jennings to ensure continuity across ongoing capital projects, federal programs, departmental operations and essential public services throughout the transition.

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