



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

St. Croix | St. Thomas | St. John United States Virgin Islands
Gateways to the U.S. Virgin Islands and its Economy

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2026

VIPA Board of Governors Selects Ava Penn as the Agency's Executive Director

The Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) Board of Governors is pleased to announce the appointment of **Ms. Ava Penn** as the Authority's next **Executive Director**, following a comprehensive and competitive recruitment and selection process.

Ms. Penn was selected after an extensive review of applications submitted in response to an advertised recruitment for the position. The Board's Personnel Committee carefully evaluated the applicant pool and identified the most qualified candidates based on their experience, leadership abilities, and professional accomplishments. Following interviews and deliberations conducted by the full Board of Governors, Ms. Penn was selected by majority vote to lead the Authority.

The Board extends its sincere appreciation to all applicants who expressed interest in serving the Virgin Islands Port Authority and the people of the Virgin Islands. The Board recognizes the time, preparation, and professionalism demonstrated by each candidate throughout the selection process.

The Board also commends the members of its Personnel Committee for their dedication and diligence in conducting a thorough evaluation process and presenting qualified candidates for the Board's consideration.

As Executive Director, Ms. Penn will be responsible for providing executive leadership and strategic direction for the Authority's operations, capital programs, and long-term initiatives. The Board is confident that her leadership, vision, and commitment to public service will advance VIPA's mission of maintaining safe, efficient, and reliable air and seaport facilities while supporting the economic growth and development of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Board looks forward to working closely with Ms. Penn as the Authority continues to enhance its services, strengthen operational performance, and uphold the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and public stewardship.

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