



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 461 – 2012**

**TO ESTABLISH AND ADOPT A BLUEPRINT FOR CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST.  
THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

\* \* \* \* \*

By the authority vested in me as Governor by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and the laws of the United States Virgin Islands, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy

The preservation and redevelopment of our towns is borne out of the need to revitalize downtown Charlotte Amalie to ensure its continued economic vitality.

The Department of Public Works (“DPW”) is concentrated on public infrastructure enhancement and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (“DPNR”) is undertaking a revision of its zoning and subdivision codes. They worked collaboratively in formulating a vision for the Historic District that would incorporate its unique cultural and historical characteristics to ensure its economic strength.

In furtherance of this vision, Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust (“Driehaus Trust”) issued a grant to the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (“CFVI”) to fund a pilot project to demonstrate how a public visioning process, and resulting Form-Based Code, could be used to benefit historic preservation efforts and lead to quality new development in the Virgin Islands, and especially the town of Charlotte Amalie.

The funding from the Driehaus Trust was used to contract with Dover Kohl, a firm actively engaged in the drafting and implementation of Form-Based Code zoning.

In December 2010, the Government of the Virgin Islands (“GVI”), through DPW and DPNR, Driehaus Trust, Dover Kohl and CFVI (“Planning Team”) invited the community to participate in a series of public events, called “*charrettes*,” to establish a community vision for the future desired urban form of historic Charlotte Amalie. Residents, property owners, business owners, government staff and officials attended the presentations and design sessions. They also visited the open design studio where each day’s progress was displayed. Participants

shared their ideas and expressed their concerns through open sessions, by drawings and writings on base maps, through exit questionnaires, interactive keypad polling, and through one-on-one meetings and conversations with members of the Planning Team;

Through the *charrette* process, the community and Planning Team arrived at a series of “*Big Ideas*” to guide appropriate development and improvements in historic Charlotte Amalie, which included:

- *Reaffirm and protect the traditional way of building;*
- *Transform the Waterfront into the finest public space in the Caribbean;*
- *Connect pedestrian, vehicular, bicyclist, taxi and transit networks;*
- *Make walkability the first priority in design;*
- *Control the scale and recognize small is beautiful;*
- *Bring Town to life at night and foster overnight stays; and*
- *Embrace or diversity and improve quality of life for all.*

A Summary Report called *The Town’s Blueprint: A Vision and Code for Historic Charlotte Amalie* was printed and posted electronically to document the ideas generated through the *charrette* process. Community workshops were held in March and November 2011 to review the draft illustrations and concepts and gather additional community feedback to refine *The Town’s Blueprint*. It was published in January 2012 and has been widely distributed to the community;

The Government of the Virgin Islands supports the efforts of the community-driven vision to preserve and restore the historic core of Charlotte Amalie as described in *The Town’s Blueprint* and wishes to enable and encourage redevelopment in accordance with its “*Big Ideas*.”

## Section 2. Adoption of The Town’s Blueprint Summary Report

*The Town’s Blueprint: A Vision and Code for Historic Charlotte Amalie* Is hereby endorsed and supported by the Government of the Virgin Island. *The Town’s Blueprint: A Vision and Code for Historic Charlotte Amalie* shall be used to guide the work of public agencies to ensure that future public and private improvements and regulatory decisions which affect the historic core are true to the vision expressed by the community.


## Section 3. Department of Planning and Natural Resources Virgin Islands Code Revision Proposal Shall Include The Town’s Blueprint: A Vision and Code for Historic Charlotte Amalie

That the Department of Planning and Natural Resources upon its final drafting of revisions to be presented to the Governor and ultimately to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands for its review and consideration, will include within its proposed code revision a section that addresses form based codes and the work product of the Planning Team.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 461-2012  
TO ESTABLISH AND ADOPT A BLUE PRINT FOR  
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS  
PAGE 3

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, A.D., 2012.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**John P. de Jongh, Jr.**  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gregory R. Francis**  
Lieutenant Governor