

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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The Honorable
Angel Bolques, Jr.
Senator-At-Large
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CHAIRMAN
Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, & Parks

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture

MEMBER
Committee on Rules & Judiciary
Committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety
Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunication
Subcommittee on Energy & Infrastructure Development



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MEDIA PRESS RELEASE

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Senator At Large Angel Bolques Jr. Celebrates Budget Allocations for FY 2025 Budget Initiatives in Public Safety, Culture, Economic Growth and St. John Infrastructure

U.S. Virgin Islands — Senator At Large Angel Bolques Jr. is pleased to announce the approval of several crucial legislative investments in the U.S. Virgin Islands Fiscal Year 2025 budget. These appropriations, focusing on enhancing public safety, infrastructure, cultural heritage, and economic development, are set to bring long-term benefits to residents, particularly those on St. John.

Reflecting on the collaborative effort that made these budgetary gains possible, Senator Bolques expressed heartfelt appreciation to his legislative peers:

"I extend my gratitude to my colleagues for their unwavering support throughout the budget markup process. These initiatives represent far more than just budget line items—they embody real change for our communities at large. Thanks to the collective effort, we're delivering a budget to make the Virgin Islands a safer, more prosperous, and culturally enriched place to live. Together, we've laid the groundwork for a brighter future."



MEDIA PRESS RELEASE

PAGE 2

1. Public Safety Enhancements:

- **St. John Rescue Support:**

A total of \$150,000 has been allocated to improve emergency response capabilities on St. John, including \$75,000 for vital EMT, Advanced EMT, EMR training and recertification, and another \$75,000 for the purchase of a Quick Response Rescue Vehicle for the island of St. John.

"This investment ensures that our first responders are fully equipped and prepared to save lives. Every second counts in emergencies, and with these resources, we are helping to make St. John safer for everyone," Senator Bolques emphasized.

- **Peace Officers' Training in Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking:**

\$125,000 has been designated to provide specialized training to law enforcement officers in combating sex crimes and human trafficking in the Virgin Islands.

"Our officers face susceptible and complex cases. This funding will give them the tools, training, and knowledge to protect those most vulnerable in our community," added the Senator.

- **VIPD Cadet Leadership and Developmental Program:**

\$130,000 will go toward nurturing the next generation of law enforcement professionals through the VIPD Cadet Program.

"Investing in the VIPD Cadet Leadership and Developmental Program is about more than just preparing young men and women for careers in law enforcement—it's about building a future where the safety and stability of our islands are in capable hands. By equipping the next generation with the skills, discipline, and leadership qualities they need, I believe we are fostering a stronger, safer Virgin Islands for years to come," said Senator Bolques.

2. Infrastructure Improvements for St. John:

- **Cruz Bay Restroom Renovations:**

\$500,000 has been allocated to renovate the public restrooms in Cruz Bay, benefiting both residents and visitors.

"This project has been long overdue. It will significantly improve the experience for all who pass through Cruz Bay, reinforcing the importance of maintaining quality infrastructure for our community and visitors alike," noted the Senator.



**MEDIA
PRESS
RELEASE**

PAGE 2

- **Johnny Horn Road Repairs:**

A substantial \$2.5 million has been set aside for repairing Johnny Horn Road, addressing key safety and transportation needs.

"The repair of Johnny Horn Road has been a long-standing issue for the residents in that area, and I am proud to see some light in the tunnel finally. This road needs to be repaired for everyday commuters and essential services like emergency response, deliveries, and water trucks. Ensuring safe and reliable access means improving residents' quality of life and ensuring that public services can reach those in need without delay." stated Senator Bolques.

- **Abandoned Vehicle Removals St. John:**

\$75,000 will be used to clear abandoned vehicles from St. John, improving the island's environmental health and appearance.

"Removing abandoned vehicles has been an issue, and I'm pleased to address it. Maintaining the beauty of St. John is incredibly important, not just for the residents but because our island is a major driver of tourism, bringing in high levels of gross profit year-round. By clearing these derelict vehicles, we're ensuring that St. John remains a safe, accessible, and welcoming destination for locals and visitors while protecting the natural charm that makes our island so special." said the Senator.

3. Cultural and Capital Projects:

- **Cultural Center Complex – St. John:**

One of the most transformative projects in this budget is the \$10 million allocated to develop a 3.75-acre Cultural Center Complex. This multipurpose facility will host cultural events, community meetings, and serve as a gathering space for residents.

"The Cultural Center Complex is one of the most transformative projects for St. John, and I couldn't be more proud. This center will be more than a venue—it will be the heart of our community, where we can host our beloved carnival, cultural celebrations, and community gatherings. With dedicated green spaces for families to enjoy, it will offer a welcoming environment for both residents and visitors. This is a space where we can celebrate our traditions, nurture our heritage, and ensure future generations continue to connect with the rich legacy of St. John." Senator Bolques proudly announced.



**MEDIA
PRESS
RELEASE**

PAGE 2

4. GVI Expansion: Children's Emergency Services Home:

• **Vessup Lane Building Purchase and Outfitting:**

\$2 million has been approved for purchasing and outfitting a new facility on St. Thomas that will offer emergency services, crisis intervention, respite care, and transitional care for children.

"The purchase and outfitting of this new facility at Vessup Lane is a critical investment in the well-being of our children. This space will serve as a safe haven for children in crisis, offering emergency services, crisis intervention, respite care, and transitional support. This facility will be a lifeline for our most vulnerable citizens during their most difficult times. I'm deeply proud to see this project move forward, as it represents a commitment to protecting and caring for the future of our Virgin Islands." said Senator Bolques.

Looking Ahead:

Senator Bolques concluded with optimism and a personal reflection on the collaborative effort of his colleagues.

"This budget is about fixing today's issues—for a better tomorrow. We've made crucial investments in areas that matter most to our people: public safety, infrastructure, culture, and economic growth. I couldn't have done this alone, and I'm truly grateful to my colleagues for their support in making these initiatives a reality. Working together, we've ensured that we're meeting immediate needs and creating opportunities for future generations. I'm excited about our path, and I want to thank the people of the Virgin Islands for trusting us to lead. We're building a stronger, more resilient future for everyone."

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