

07/20/2022-SPECIAL ORDERED TO THE FLOOR
06/07/2022-AMENDED AND HELD IN COMMITTEE
02/01/2022 – TAKEN OFF AGENDA

BILL NO. 34-0176

Thirty-Fourth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

December 14, 2021

An Act appropriating \$325,000 from the Community Facility Trust Fund to the General Fund for the purpose of supporting the refurbishment of No. 40-B Company Street, Christiansted and the program objectives of the Collective Collaboration, Inc., and requiring that the Collective Collaboration, Inc., comply with the financial disclosure requirements under 2 V.I.C. § 29

PROPOSED BY: Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Kurt A. Violet, Javan E. James, Sr., Franklin D. Johnson, Genevieve R. Whitaker and Samuel Carrión
Co-sponsor: Kenneth L. Gittens

1 **WHEREAS**, there is a critical need for services to support the homeless population
2 in the Virgin Islands; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness reported that
4 as of January 2020, the Virgin Islands had an estimated 304 residents experiencing
5 homelessness on any given day; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there is a shortage of emergency and temporary housing in the
7 Territory and wraparound services to support the homeless; and

8 **WHEREAS**, since March 2020, Collective Collaboration, Inc., a non-profit
9 organization based on St. Croix, has provided services to the homeless and mentally ill
10 and transitioned these individuals back into society; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Collective Collaboration, Inc., has also assisted the business
2 community in Christiansted, which has often complained about the negative impact of
3 the homeless' presence on their businesses; and

4 **WHEREAS**, funding from the Community Facilities Trust Fund would improve
5 community spaces through providing support for persons affected by behavioral health
6 issues and homelessness; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Virgin Islands has given a verbal recommendation
8 for the funds to be used in the manner herein provided; Now, Therefore,

9 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

10 **SECTION 1.** Pursuant to section 7.1 of the Agreement between Diageo USVI, Inc.
11 and the Government of the United States Virgin Islands dated June 17, 2008, ratified by the
12 Legislature in Act No. 7012, there is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September
13 30, 2022, the sum of \$325,000 from the Community Facility Trust Fund to the
14 Department of Human Services as a grant to be awarded to Collective Collaboration, Inc.,
15 for the purpose of supporting the refurbishment of No. 40-B Company Street,
16 Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands and the program objectives of the Collective
17 Collaboration, Inc.

18 **SECTION 2.** The sum appropriated in section 1 remains available until
19 expended.

20 **SECTION 3.** The Collective Collaboration, Inc., shall comply with the financial
21 disclosure requirements under 2 V.I.C. § 29 in administering the funds appropriated in
22 section 1 of this act.

23 **BILL SUMMARY**

24 The bill appropriates \$325,000 from the Community Facility Trust Fund to the
25 General Fund as a grant to the Collective Collaboration, Inc., for the purpose of supporting

1 the refurbishment of No. 40-B Company Street, Christiansted and the program objectives
2 of the Collective Collaboration, Inc. The bill also requires the Collective Collaboration,
3 Inc., to comply with the financial disclosure requirements under 2 V.I.C. § 29.

4 **LEGISLATIVE NOTE**

5 The sponsor of the bill notes that the Governor has verbally approved the use of the
6 Community Facility Trust, as required pursuant to the Diageo Agreement ratified in Act
7 No. 7012.

8 **BR21-0814/November 15, 2021/GC**

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