Testimony of
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on
An Update of the Healthcare Facilities in the U.S. Virgin Islands

before
The Committee on Disaster Recovery & Infrastructure

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ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
Good morning Honorable Senator Sarauw, Chairperson of the Committee on Disaster Recovery and Infrastructure, Vice Chair Kurt Viallet, and other members of the Committee. My name is Rick Faircloth. I am the Vice-President for APTIM Environmental & Infrastructure, LLC, a participant in the U.S. Virgin Islands’ disaster recovery efforts. With me today is Paul Olson, APTIM’s Director of Operations for Civil and Vertical Construction. I am honored to come before you today to provide a status update for the temporary hospital on St. Croix now referred to as “JFL North”.

Disaster response and recovery is a core competency of APTIM. We have responded to every major natural disaster in the country since 2005. APTIM is proud to have been chosen to participate in the Territory’s recovery efforts in three key areas—schools, healthcare and homes. Our projects include temporary repairs to school campuses on St. Croix and roof repairs under the VI Housing Finance Authority’s Emergency Home Repairs Program. We are currently in the final stages of the JFL North project and are installing fixtures, furniture and equipment for the facility.

APTIM executed the contract to design and construct this facility less than two years ago on July 6, 2018. On December 30, 2019, APTIM was issued a supplemental contract to procure and install the furniture, fixtures and equipment for the facility. Most recently, on July 7, 2020, APTIM was awarded two additional change orders to procure and install the equipment necessary to relocate the radiology department and to design and build an ambulance ramp, additional parking and ADA compliant entrances. While JFL North is a temporary facility, it is equipped with state-of-the-art capabilities including four operating rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory and radiology department.

This important project has given us the opportunity to continue key relationships with local partners such as Island Services Group, Chitolie Trucking and KLR Services, just to name a few. Our partners have brought local labor and experience to the table and have benefited from our knowledge of the intricacies of operating in a highly regulated environment. It is a great feeling to be able to report that the JFL North was built largely by Virgin Islanders whom this facility will serve in the coming years.

We are substantially complete with our contracted scope of work. Remaining work includes minor exterior site work, such as striping the parking lot, installation of bollards and handrails, and completing final punch list items on the interior of the building. This will leave only certain testing, commissioning and JFL staff training, which will occur closer to the move-in date. The JFL team is working to bring utilities to within five feet of the facility, at which point we should be able to complete our remaining work in approximately ninety (90) days from turnover.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony. Our work in the Territory, side by side with Virgin Islanders, has been extremely rewarding as it is the type of work that directly and positively impacts lives. Many of our staff who worked on this program were victims of similar disasters and many have expressed their satisfaction in helping the Virgin Islands. We look forward to continuing to work with the Territory on the road to recovery. I will remain available to answer any questions regarding APTIM’s involvement in the JFL North project on St. Croix.