

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE TOWN'S BLUEPRINT

A VISION & CODE FOR HISTORIC CHARLOTTE AMALIE

Headline: **Save the Date – Community Meeting for *The Town's Blueprint* to be held on Monday, November 7th at 6:30pm.**

Location: Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, USVI

Date: October 25, 2011

The Government of the Virgin Islands, in coordination with the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI), is pleased to announce that the next community meeting to continue planning efforts for *The Town's Blueprint* will be held at **6:30pm on Monday, November 7th at the Christ Church Methodist Sanctuary (on Market Square).**

The purpose of the upcoming meeting will be to discuss the vision and the revised draft of the Form-Based Code for Charlotte Amalie. **Updated Vision Summary Report and Draft Form-Based Code Documents will be available for community review one week prior to the meeting at www.thetownsblueprint.com; printed copies may be acquired at the DPNR Division of Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning office (at Cyril E. King Airport).**

The Town's Blueprint is a special component in the USVI's Zoning and Subdivision Code Update initiative: a pilot project to demonstrate and test the application of a "Form-Based Code" in historic Charlotte Amalie. A Form-Based Code is a type of zoning intended to encourage, preserve and restore high-quality public spaces, with a primary emphasis on the physical form of the built environment. The code prescribes key physical details that define a community's character.

The first step to creating a Form-Based Code is to confirm the community's vision for a specific area. This vision is then translated into new form-based regulations. The vision and code together, when adopted, is used to guide future development in the selected study area.

On December 3 - 9, 2010, the Government of the Virgin Islands and the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands invited the community to participate in a series of public events, called a "charrette". Residents, property/business owners, and government staff and officials attended the week-long event which included community presentations and design sessions, and an open design studio at the Grand Hotel where each day's progress was displayed. Participants shared their goals and ideas through open microphone sessions, by drawing and writing ideas on base maps, through exit questionnaires, interactive keypad polling, and through one-on-one meetings and conversations with members of the planning team.

On March 18th & 19th, 2011, the planning process continued with follow-up meetings to gather feedback on the community vision, and interactively review a first draft of the Form-Based Code. Since those meetings, the Dover-Kohl team has been coordinating with the Department of Planning

and Natural Resources (DPNR) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to continue to refine the vision and code documents.

The goal for this planning effort is to create a new Form-Based Code (FBC) District that could be carefully applied in selected areas throughout the Territory. Charlotte Amalie was selected as the first “pilot” area to test this approach; if desired by the community, similar visioning processes and Form-Based Code districts could be applied in other areas in the future.

This planning effort, led by the Government of the Virgin Islands in coordination with the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, is made possible by the generous support of the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust. For more information, please contact:

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