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Soraya Diase Coffelt, J.D., M.J.S.
Attorney General Designee
Virgin Islands Department of Justice
34-38 Kronprindsens Gade
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

January 8, 2015

Re: Chief of the Criminal Division Position

Dear Attorney General Diase Coffelt:

First, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Attorney General. The office that you inherit has both tremendous strengths and significant challenges, but with your background and history you will successfully manage both. Next, I would like to offer my services for your consideration as Criminal Chief to assist in addressing your upcoming challenges and to help you achieve your goals as Attorney General. As background for your consideration, I submit this letter and resume

In 1993, I came to the Department of Justice having had five years of prior prosecution experience in the State of New Hampshire. There I worked closely with law enforcement and maintained a good working relationship with the court, law enforcement, as well as the defense bar. It was there that I discovered that I also enjoyed teaching new law enforcement officers and potential law school students.

My first assignment at the Department of Justice allowed me to work directly with the detectives of the VIPD as part of their investigative team. I had the honor of writing the first Territorial search warrant, and thereafter would advise the officers on scene as to any potential legal issues, if they arose. This assignment allowed me to forge the current relationship that I now enjoy with most of the senior VIPD officers and commanders.

In 1995, I became the Director of White Collar Crime Unit, and remained in that position until 2000. In that capacity, I worked closely with Director Steven van Beverhoudt and his staff at the Inspector General's Office. As a result of that work and experience, in 2000 I was offered a position to head a Racketeering Unit in Southwest Florida, the goal of which was to target Cuban organized crime. While in Florida, I learned modern investigative techniques, utilizing what was then cutting edge technology. While there, I successfully prosecuted several RICO cases, including a Gang RICO, as well as elderly exploitation, credit card fraud, counterfeiting and internet fraud cases.

In 2010, I returned to the Virgin Islands to find an office in internal turmoil. It is no secret that the relationship between the Office of the Attorney General and the Court is strained, and the relationship with the VIPD is broken. My hopes of bringing modern techniques and equipment to the VI (see the attached proposal submitted in 2012) were greeted with enthusiasm by a few, particularly Attorney Anderson, but ignored by those in ultimate command. Despite adversity, Attorney Anderson and I have strived to crack the wall and some progress towards modernization has been made. I share this information in the hopes that efforts can be made to continue progress towards this goal.

Presently, I still work directly with the Investigative and Major Crimes Units on a daily basis. My interaction is hands on during the day and after hours, almost every night, I accept phone calls from any officer with a legal concern. I meet weekly with the homicide detectives, and maintain a very close working relationship with them, reviewing the results of the investigations and brainstorming to see what else is needed to help make a better case and ultimately an arrest and successful prosecution.

If given the opportunity to be Criminal Chief, I would like to re-institute an educational program for law enforcement. I have adapted the curriculum that I used while teaching at the Police Academy in Fort Myers, Florida to the Virgin Islands, and have a text ready for your review. In the past, I have shared this curriculum with the office and the Bureau of Corrections and would like to see to it that continued training is done.

With the increasing use of technology to commit crimes, I would like to oversee the creation of a cyber crimes laboratory, so that we can fully utilize computer and cellular based evidence in our investigations and prosecutions. The laboratory would also encompass training

for crime analysts and be equipped with iBase and Analyst Notebook, so that criminal intelligence can be generated, organized and shared between agencies as well as with our federal partners.

I would re-institute the now defunct student intern and mentorship programs. As you may know, I have worked with several high school and college students over the past five years. In Florida I welcomed up to four interns each semester. I have coached the past two Moot Court Champion teams, and hope you will allow me to continue in that role. Many of my students have gone on to successful careers, three are now prosecuting attorneys, and one is enrolled in law school. I firmly believe that giving students an opportunity to see what happens behind the scenes and get involved in our community helps develop them into both well rounded students and future leaders.

Finally, I would like to work to repair the relationship with the Courts and VIPD. As to the Courts, I would relinquish the current Chiefs' office to be a conference room with a mounted calendar, so that fewer court appearances are missed. I would create Judge Teams consisting of two attorneys, a support staff and a victim advocate, and meet with each team weekly to be sure that all is well in each courtroom, all witnesses and victims concerns are met and each person is prepped and informed well before trial.. I would maintain regular contact with each courtroom clerk, so that no miscommunications occur, and immediately address any concerns and problems. Also, if welcomed, I would endeavor to meet with the Chief Judge on a regular basis to ensure that his concerns are being addressed. As to the VIPD, I would first recommend that we make our office more officer friendly, rather than the hostile environment that we currently maintain. I would begin regular teaching sessions and distribute legal bulletins, and provide a workspace for officer use. Finally I would partner with certain officers to usher in the use of the modern techniques, training and equipment that are currently available through grant programs as well as through the Regional Organized Crime Center and the National Association of Attorneys General.

I appreciate your taking the time to consider my request. I understand that you must do what

you feel is best for the Department as a whole, and I will respect whatever decision you make. I look forward to working for you in whatever capacity you see fit to assign to me.

Very Truly Yours:

Douglas Sprotte
Assistant Attorney General