



LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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**ADLAH "FONCIE"
DONASTORG**
Senator, 28th Legislature

Member, Committees on:

*Financial Services,
Infrastructure and Consumer
Affairs*

*Housing, Sports
and Veterans Affairs*

*Planning and
Environmental Protection*

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photos

attached

Administration abandons La Valle substation project Donastorg urges officials to move forward

ST. THOMAS – Senator Adlah “Foncie” Donastorg is pushing Administration officials to move forward with plans for a police substation and emergency services center on St. Croix’s Northshore Road.

Last summer the 27th Legislature appropriated \$450,000 for the project and on September 17, 2008 Governor John P. de Jongh signed Act 7013 into law which provides funding for the conversion of the former Alexander I. Wilson School on St. Croix’s Northshore Road for use by Police, Fire Services and EMTs.

“Senators funded this project because it is of utmost importance to the residents of St. Croix,” Donastorg said. “Yet, one year later no work at all appears to have taken place.”

On a recent site visit, Donastorg said his staff found no evidence of any effort to move the project forward and that the building was not secured against further damage or vandalism.

“For all intents and purposes this project appears to have been abandoned before it even started,” Donastorg said. “Administration officials also promised residents that they would place a mobile police substation at this site during construction and, again, one year later and the substation is not in place.”

Donastorg has written the Property & Procurement Commissioner for a report on the status of the project and its funding.

“I have also asked the Police Commissioner to fulfill the Department’s commitment to Northshore residents and bring the substation out to Wilson School as promised,” Donastorg said. “The people of La Valle, Cane Bay, Mon Bijou, Salt River and surrounding areas are truly under protected given the distance to the nearest police and fire stations. This becomes an island wide issue when emergency personnel must vacate their posts in Christiansted or Frederiksted to come out to the Northshore.”

Earlier this year the Senator pledged to focus on preventing crime and violence in the Virgin Islands. His efforts include reviewing previous legislative initiatives, drafting new legislation such as his anti-gang bill and establishing a criminal justice reform task force.

“It is clear that the criminal element is operating with little fear of repercussion,” Donastorg said. “We have had numerous broad daylight shootings, even in neighborhoods long considered as ‘safe’. Criminals have taken advantage of the lack of police presence on the Northshore for far too long and every Virgin Islander is entitled to a level of protection. I am very disturbed by the idea that any segment of our community is living in fear.”

Donastorg said he would keep up the pressure on the Administration and the VIPD until residents had the emergency services that they deserve.

“I am also quite disturbed to note that VIPD has established a substation in Red Hook that remains unmanned,” Donastorg said. “Red Hook needs a permanent and consistent police presence and I have requested an update in this regard.”