

Hon. Chief Minister R.T .O'Neal, Mr. Louis Potter, Chief Town and Country Planning Officer, other Public Servants, members of the press ladies and gentlemen, Good Day.

I am delighted and honored to join with the Honorable Chief Minister today, to announce the Road Town Charrette. For sometime now, the Chief Minister as chairman of the Road Town Improvement Committee has been seeking for a comprehensive development plan for Road Town. Since I attended the first meeting of the Road Town Improvement committee in September of 1999, I recognized that the honorable Chief Minister was in search of such a comprehensive plan, one which he can endorse and present to his colleagues to become a policy programme for the development of the capital of the British Virgin Islands. The Chief Town and Country Planning officer was asked by the honorable Chief Minister to head a subcommittee of the Road Town Improvement Committee, to begin to chart such a comprehensive programme.

The idea today of a Charrette for the development of Road Town is an indirect product of the search by this subcommittee to render to the Chief Minister a comprehensive, inclusive, broad-based, community participatory, action plan for the long-term development of the capital of the British Virgin Islands. The format, called a charrette, as discussed and recommended to me by Tim Peck of the firm Onions Bouchad and Mucullough, OBM, has been fully embraced by the Chief Minister, the subcommittee, and the Town and Country Planning Department.

As a representative of the people of the British Virgin Islands, everyone knows my deep passion for the improvement of our beautiful capital, Road Town. The Honorable Chief Minister has pledged his full commitment to this programme, and I am pleased for the projects, which he has funded so far and his continuous commitment to the comprehensive improvement of greater Road Town.

As the people representative's, my key focus is to ensure that while we continue to develop a business community in Road Town, that the city becomes a more pedestrian friendly place. This will allow both residents and visitors the opportunity to traverse Road Town, work in Road Town, shop in Road Town and relax in Road Town in a much more comfortable and pleasant atmosphere. In this regard, my preference is narrower roads, wider sidewalks, easier crossings, lots more trees, plants and shrubs, and many more water fountains and other such pleasantries. Efforts to improve the traffic and the parking situation in Road Town should receive full attention at the Road Town Charrette.

I have attended over the past two weeks, a number of interesting pre-charrette focus meetings, attended by community user groups and individuals, indicating that there is very keen interest by the community to see the 20/20 vision of Road Town become a reality that is pleasing to the residents and visitors of the British Virgin Islands. I am looking forward to hard work and enthusiasm on the 21<sup>st</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, from everyone who can make an input into a comprehensive programme of development for the capital of our beautiful British Virgin Islands. It is my pledge to encourage the Chief Minister, who is the minister responsible for the development of Road Town, to ensure that the document outlining the development programme for Road Town resulting from this Charrette, receives broad-based support, approval and funding through the executive and legislative councils of the territory.

I thank you the members of the press for your interest in this subject and I hope that through your media you will be able to help us to sensitize the BVI public, as we continue to focus on the Development of Road Town and indeed the development of the entire British Virgin

Islands. I conclude by repeating our draft vision statement, which will be finalized and the Charrette.

“By the year 2020, Road Town will emerge as a world class residential, tourist, commercial, and financial center reflecting the rich human diversity with pedestrian friendly communities, efficient transport systems, retaining its culture and heritage while contributing to the social and economic well-being of the people of the territory.”