

BILL NO. _____

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

A Resolution honoring and commending Carlton “Ital” Dowe for his contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

WHEREAS, Carlton “Ital” Dowe was born on February 19, 1958 to the late Issa Barry-Thomas of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, and Henry A. Dowe of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Carlton “Ital” Dowe graduated from the Charlotte Amalie High School; and

WHEREAS, Carlton received an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies and Associate of Fire Science Technology and Administration degree from Miami Dade Community College in Miami, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Carlton “Ital” Dowe earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College, City University of New York; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 1983, Carlton became the youngest person to assume the
2 responsibilities of Fire Chief, for the then Virgin Islands Fire Service, St. Thomas-St. John
3 district; and

4 **WHEREAS**, under Carlton’s leadership, the Fortuna/Bordeaux fire substation was
5 established and the smoke detector program in the Tutu and Bordeaux communities was
6 initiated; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 1995, Carlton was confirmed as the Director of the Virgin Islands Fire
8 Service; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Carlton is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and
10 the International Association of Arson Investigators; and

11 **WHEREAS**, after serving as the Director of the Virgin Islands Fire Service, Carlton
12 “Ital” Dowe became a United States Marshal; and

13 **WHEREAS**, while serving as a United States Marshal, Carlton served warrants in
14 conjunction with the Virgin Islands Police Department Special Operations Bureau and was
15 integral in making many notable and high-profile arrests; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Carlton “Ital” Dowe served his community as a five-term senator in the
17 Legislature of the Virgin Islands; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in his first term in the Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the Virgin Islands,
19 Senator Dowe advocated for \$10,000,000 union wage increases; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in the Twenty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Dowe
21 sponsored legislation that established the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Dowe was
2 a co-sponsor of legislation that established the Witness Protection Program and he was also a
3 lead sponsor of legislation that appropriated \$2,900,000 for the construction of Leonard
4 “Nardo” Trotman Drive on St. Thomas; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in the Twenty-Eighth Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Dowe was
6 the primary sponsor of a measure that gave a cost of living increase to the Government
7 Employees Retirement System’s annuitants and he was also a co-sponsor of legislation that
8 assisted with the bid preference for small businesses; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Dowe was
10 the primary sponsor of legislation that promoted literacy by establishing the eBook Pilot
11 Program for elementary, junior, high and alternative education schools and other educational
12 programs and he also supported legislation that provided funding for the Virgin Islands’ public
13 education system, by increasing the motor vehicle rental surcharge from \$2.00 to \$3.75, of
14 which \$2.00 was allocated to the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Dowe and
16 his colleagues successfully sponsored and passed legislation that created the Division of Capital
17 Improvements in the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works and he also advocated and
18 successfully led the charge to implement a marine terminal user’s tax; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Carlton “Ital” Dowe currently serves as the Executive Director of the
20 Virgin Islands Port Authority (“VIPA”); and

21 **WHEREAS**, Carlton was steadfast in the expansion of the Crown Bay Dock, where some
22 of the largest cruise ships in the world have berthed including the Icon of the Seas; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Dowe successfully negotiated a 10-year berthing agreement with Royal
24 Caribbean Cruise Line at the Austin “Babe” Monsanto Marine Terminal in Crown Bay; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Carlton “Ital” Dowe orchestrated and successfully negotiated agreements
2 with Royal Caribbean Group (“RCG”) and Cruise Terminals International (“CTI”) that will
3 transform the Virgin Islands’ cruise industry and secure its position as a premier cruise
4 destination in the Caribbean. The first agreement is an extension of the existing Memorandum
5 of Understanding between VIPA, CTI and RCG, reaffirming CTI and RCG’s commitment to
6 develop the Crown Bay District, including the Austin “Babe” Monsanto Marine Facility and
7 Crown Bay Center in St. Thomas. The second agreement is an addendum to the existing 10-
8 year Piers Usage Agreement between the VIPA and RCG, which creates a Capital Cost
9 Recovery Charge (“CRCC”). The funds generated from the CRCC will be used to advance the
10 Crown Bay District Upland Development project on St. Thomas, including the pre-
11 development work for a third cruise ship dock, and to fund the pre-development costs to
12 advance improvements to allow for a broader range of ships to call on St. Croix; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Dowe led the VIPA’s team in the successful refinancing of VIPA’s 2003
14 marine bonds at a savings of approximately \$2,400,000, which money was used for: funding
15 the refurbishment of the Gallows Bay Marine Terminal; bulkhead dredging of the Schooner
16 Bay Channel to facilitate the berthing of small cruise ships in Christiansted, St. Croix;
17 developing a paid parking facility in Cruz Bay; and constructing a U.S. Customs and Broder
18 Protection facility and a multi-level parking garage at the Red Hook Terminal; and

19 **WHEREAS**, under Carlton Dowe’s leadership, for the first time in VIPA’s history, the
20 VIPA secured the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant from the
21 United States Department of Transportation which was used to complete seaport projects; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Dowe lobbied for the passage of legislation that resulted in tremendous
23 savings to the VIPA by allowing claims against the VIPA related to injury, loss of property,
24 personal injury or death to be limited to an amount not to exceed \$75,000; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Dowe lobbied for the passage of legislation that allowed the VIPA to
2 collect the entire \$1 of the Marine Terminal Tax, as opposed to 30 cents, which resulted in
3 \$1,100,000 in new revenue; and

4 **WHEREAS**, under the leadership of Carlton Dowe, for the first time in 11 years, the
5 VIPA received discretionary funding from the Federal Aviation Administration; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Dowe recommended and implemented, with the approval of the VIPA
7 Board, an increase in ship dues and wharfage fees for inter-island travel between St. Thomas
8 and St. John and the British Virgin Islands; at that time, the increase was the first increase in
9 20 years resulting in a 78% increase in ships dues and a 133% increase in wharfage fees over a
10 four-month period compared to the same period the previous year; and

11 **WHEREAS**, through Carlton Dowe's leadership, the VIPA now generates additional
12 revenues to support its operations; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Carlton revamped the VIPA's internal policies to improve management,
14 including its financial, procurement, travel and records retention policies; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Carlton Dowe implemented human resources programs for the VIPA's
16 employees, completed union negotiations, fulfilled outstanding contractual obligations that
17 brought all contracts current, which resulted in unionized employees being paid at their correct
18 grade and step; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Dowe continues to work hard on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands
20 through his efforts in the remodeling of the Cyril E. King and Henry Rohlsen airports; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Dowe led a team that accomplished the Public Private Partnership that will
22 finance infrastructural improvements at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix and Cyril E.
23 King Airport on St. Thomas; this transformative collaboration will enable the Virgin Islands to
24 remain competitive with other Caribbean tourist destinations; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Carlton advocated for the implementation of aviation programs in the
4 Virgin Islands public schools; and

5 **WHEREAS** Carlton is married to Mrs. Jacqueline Smith-Dowe and has six children:
6 Shenika, Roane, Shawn, Lynelle, J’Koi, and N’Kai; and seven grandchildren: Shawn, Jaden,
7 Kyleigh, Kaiden, Asia, Brielle, and Xion; Now, Therefore,

9 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
10 Islands, honors and commends Carlton “Ital” Dowe for outstanding public service to the people
11 of the Virgin Islands, through his roles as Fire Chief and Director of the Virgin Islands Fire and
12 Emergency Services, United States Marshal, five-term senator in the Legislature of the Virgin
13 Islands, and Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Port Authority.

14 **SECTION 2.** In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the Virgin Islands
15 community, the President of the Legislature, or the President’s designee, shall present a perma
16 plaque copy of this Resolution to Carlton “Ital” Dowe at an appropriate ceremony.

18 This bill honors and commends Carlton “Ital” Dowe for his many years of service and
19 contributions to the Virgin Islands community.

20 BR23-0411/September 24, 2024/GC