

# Love City Livin'

## Ex-DPNR commissioner Dawn Henry tapped as interim CEO of Island Green Living

By SARA KIRKPATRICK  
Daily News Staff

Non-profit Island Green Living Association has tapped the expertise of Dawn Lisa Henry, Esq. as interim CEO.

Henry was elected to the Island Green Living board in 2024 and serves as vice president.

She brings a wealth of experience, as former Commissioner of Department of Planning and Natural Resources she led over 200 employees and managed a budget of approximately \$30 million, and is highly informed and deeply committed to environmental concerns across the territory.

As interim CEO she will oversee the day-to-day operations while searching for a permanent administrator.

"There is no one more knowledgeable or dedicated to the environmental wellbeing, and with that the health and welfare of the community, than Dawn," Harith Wickrema, president of Island Green Living, said in a press release. "We are fortunate that she is able to commit to a leadership role overseeing operations while she guides strategy over the next few months. Her allegiance to Island Green's sustainable programming, and interest in expanding the protec-

tion of the environment, food security and economic wellbeing, with far reaching education and community engagement in the territory, promise to take the organization to the next level."

"One of the most urgent environmental challenges we face is plastic pollution," Henry said in the release. "Virgin Islanders deserve clear, accessible information about the environmental and health impacts plastics pose. I believe that Healthy People Build Healthy Environments, and that education is the foundation for informed choices, healthier families, and a more resilient Virgin Islands."

Born in the territory, Henry received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma School of Law and returned home, where she practiced environmental law for over 20 years.

As DPNR Commissioner, one of her primary responsibilities was serving as an environmental steward for the territory, including the Division of Environmental Protection, Coastal Zone Management, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

She championed the plastic bag ban and served in a leadership capacity on the Commissioners' Debris Management Team, helping to develop a debris management plan

to address the territory's green waste following the devastation of the 2017 hurricanes.

She also advocated for sustainable alternatives to air curtain incineration and authored legislation aimed at broader reforms in waste collection and management.

Henry currently leads Nehemiah Project, LLC, an environmental consultancy, and Virgin Islands Environmental Association, another environmental non-profit, and serves as Senior Advisor to the nonprofit Beyond Plastics.

### Earth Month Raffle

Island Green Living also announced the start of their annual Earth Month raffle, a fundraiser to support their recycling program and sustainability initiatives.

Raffle entrants have an opportunity to win an amazing seven-night "Love City Grand Prize Vacation" for 2 to 10 guests, valued at more than \$16,000.

Accommodations will be at the five-bedroom beachfront Beach Villa by Artistic Villas, a beautifully designed tropical retreat including a private pool, garden and direct beach access, donated by board member Donald Schnell and his wife, Deborah.

"Thanks to Deborah and Donald Schnell for donating their exception-

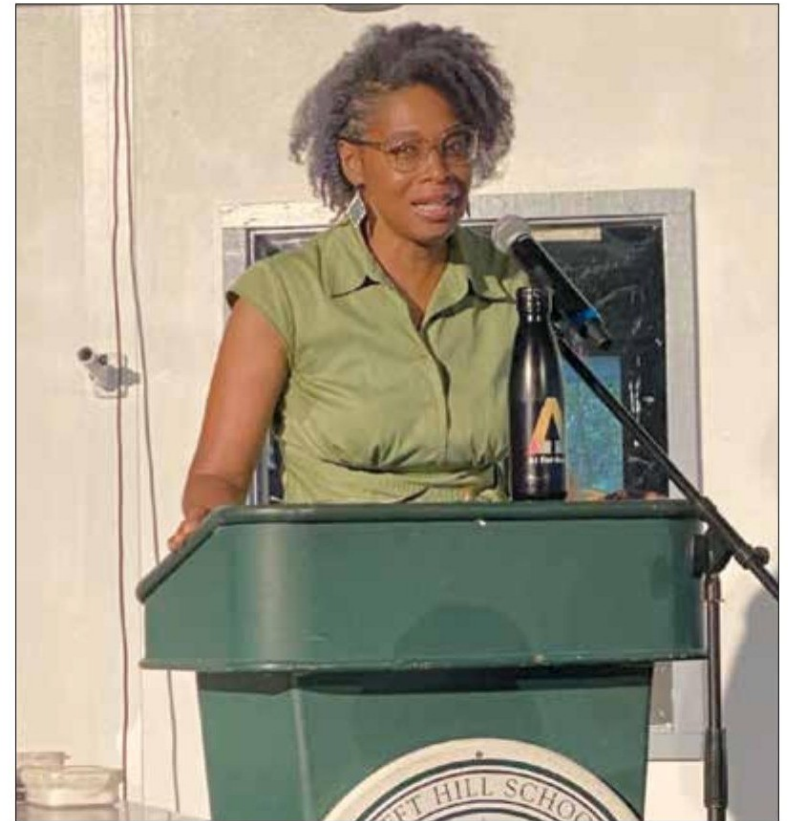


Photo by ISLAND GREEN LIVING

Dawn Lisa Henry, near right, former Department of Planning and Natural Resources commissioner and a senior adviser to nonprofit Beyond Plastics and Island Green Living board member, speaks Monday at Island Green Living's Planet vs. Plastic discussion held on Earth Day in 2024.