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OPENING REMARKS

Submitted on behalf of the Named Beneficiaries

To the Commission of Inquiry into Historic Losses of Land in Bermuda

Regarding: Last Will in Testament, John Augustus Alexander Virgil, Deceased January 17, 1972

Regarding Approx. 4 Acres of Real Estate at Spring Benny Road, ...Drive and ...Lane,

Sandys Parish, Bermuda

NOVEMBER 25 2020

1. Good morning, my name is Charles N. L. Brown. I am the fourth child of a named Beneficiary of John Augustus Alexander Virgil. Today I am representing my ancestors and speaking on the behalf of those who sacrificed and participated in this struggle. I am joined today by my Mother Barbara Brown, my brother George Brown and family members present. It is the position of the named Beneficiaries of the Last Will in Testament of John Augustus Alexander Virgil (Augustus Virgil/Uncle John) that there is extensive and conclusive evidence that exposes the outcome of a conspiracy to hatch and execute a clumsy plan to deceive, misrepresent, steal property and profit. This plan, with official misconduct, greed and deceit at its core used a network of formal and informal business relationships, ignorance, arrogance and a callous disregard for the law in order to carry out a set of fraudulent activities.
2. Based on our evidence, it is clear that the objective of the plan was to complete an illegal 'land grab'. This plan would see the production, vouching for, and use of fake documents in transactions with established corporate entities in Bermuda. For decades, along with muscle, money and power, the architects of this conspiracy and their associates have managed to avoid being held to account.
3. The evidence points to the look and feel of corruption in high and low places. This appears to be a plan that was carried out with the sanction and the blessing of banking officials, lawyers and real estate agents, who were all ably aided and abetted by a cast of characters eager to exploit those least able to defend against economic bullying.

5. Addressing the Commission today is a significant milestone; Our message is from our ancestors of 1885 and this a step towards some measure of closure after tireless efforts in the pursuit of justice after almost 50 years.
6. Despite extraordinary efforts to be heard in a Court of law in this country, the Beneficiaries have been systematically denied the opportunity to present a case for their rightful claim to what was willed to them. Despite the seemingly coordinated efforts to deny due process; - - faith in the strength of the evidence which exposes the improper behaviour - that faith was unwavering. Notwithstanding the cold and insensitive decision of Bermuda's 2014 Governor, we are now here.
7. The named Beneficiaries lay legal claim to the subject land and have been in possession of the critical documents and supporting evidence since the passing of their dearly beloved Augustus Virgil (Uncle John); namely his Will and the Title Deeds from 1885.
8. The activities to support the supposed sale and transfer of the land in question did not comply with the laws of the land. They were orchestrated by dishonest individuals collectively representing a triangle of trickery including law firms, banks and real estate agencies that conspired to obstruct the law and deny constitutional due process to the named Beneficiaries.
9. The expectation is that this Commission, in furtherance of its mandate does cause the matter to be placed before the eyes and ears of justice for its right and proper hearing leading to some form of redress for the long-suffering Beneficiaries. And also, to the extent that we can, hold the perpetrators of this conspiracy to account under the laws and customs that govern and guide the beautiful Islands of Bermuda.

It was always our hope that my brother Walton would be here to present our case but his untimely passing prevents that, sadly. His words resonate through our story and guide our steps.

Many thanks to the government of Bermuda for establishing this Commission and a special