

TESTIMONY
OF
NELLON L. BOWRY
DIRECTOR DESIGNEE
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
ON
“PLANS FOR UPCOMING 2015 VIRGIN ISLANDS CARNIVAL IN ST. THOMAS”

31TH LEGISLATURE
EARLE B. OTTLEY LEGISLATURE, ST. THOMAS
AT
09:00AM

MARCH 27, 2015

GOOD MORNING HONORABLE MYRON D. JACKSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, YOUTH AND RECREATION, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, SENATORS OF THE 31TH LEGISLATURE WHO ARE PRESENT, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA AND THE LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE. I AM DEBRA E. GOTTLIEB, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB), REPRESENTING MR. NELLON L. BOWRY, DIRECTOR DESIGNEE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WHO IS UNABLE TO APPEAR TODAY, TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY ON PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING 2015 VIRGIN ISLANDS CARNIVAL IN ST. THOMAS.

THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET HAS ALLOTTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM FOR THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

1. **\$300,000 FROM THE TOURISM REVOLVING FUND (ACT NO. 7680) AND**
2. **\$100,000 OF \$248,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND (ACT NO. 7699)**

OMB IS PRESENTLY UNABLE TO ALLOT THE REMAINDER OF THE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE CURRENT STATE OF THE TERRITORY'S FINANCES.

PRESENTLY, THE GENERAL FUND IS REFLECTING A PROJECTED DEFICIT OF \$144.5 MILLION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AS PER THE ATTACHED SPREADSHEET. ACCORDINGLY, PURSUANT TO TITLE 2, V.I.C. 26 (C) (3) OMB HAS BEGUN THE PROCESS OF MODIFYING/WITHHOLD EXPENDITURES SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE THE TOTAL SUM OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDS FISCAL YEAR 2015 GENERAL FUND REVENUE PROJECTIONS.

THUS, IT IS NOT PRUDENT TO CONTINUE TO ALLOT MORE THAN THE PROJECTED REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND

THAT IS SPECIFICALLY WHY OMB HAS NOT ALLOTTED THE REMAINDER OF THE ST. THOMAS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE'S GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION AT THIS TIME. INSTEAD WE BELIEVE THAT THE TERRITORY'S LEADERSHIP SHOULD COLLECTIVELY FOCUS, AS WAS DISCUSSED AT THIS WEEK'S REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE ON EXPANDING THE TERRITORY'S REVENUE BASE AND ENHANCING THE TERRITORY'S REVENUE COLLECTION EFFORTS.

ON BEHALF OF DIRECTOR BOWRY, I WANT TO THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN FOR PROVIDING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OMB'S THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER BEFORE US TODAY.