



Virgin Islands Carnival Committee

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Good Morning, Honorable Myron D. Jackson, Chairperson of the Committee of Culture, Preservation, Youth & Recreation, and other distinguished Senators who are present in the Chambers. My name is Kenneth Blake, Chairman of the Virgin Islands Carnival Committee (VICC).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the invitation to appear before this august body to offer testimony on the update and plans for the upcoming Carnival.

To give some background, The Virgin Islands Carnival Committee, Inc. was incorporated on March 31, 1976 on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands as a non-profit organization. The Committee's mission statement is to preserve and promote the Virgin Islands culture and enhance the US Virgin Islands Tourism.

The Governor has recommended a General Fund appropriation from the Miscellaneous Section of the budget for Fiscal Year 2016 in the amount of \$245,000. The VI Carnival Committee is also slated to receive \$300,000 from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund for a total appropriation of \$545,000 and to date it is the earliest the VICC has received all the appropriation from the Government of the Virgin Islands for Carnival.

Carnival is here! The Theme for this year's Carnival is "**Nothing is More Fabulous than Carnival in St. Thomas,**" the lyrics taken from the awesome Jam Band's song, "Showtime" which was created by Nick "Daddy" Friday.

The Carnival Schedule is available at the VICC office, on the Website @ www.vicarnival.com and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vicarnival. The music schedule for the Carnival Village is being worked and should be completed very soon. We have three Queen Contestants, and five Princess contestants vying for the title of "Carnival Queen" and "Carnival Princess."

Applications for the various events have been made available to the general public. Vendors', Adults' and Children Parades' applications are now available.

In a previous budget hearing, the VICC requested a total appropriation of \$650,000, for this year's Carnival; however, only \$545,000 received. Nonetheless, we will continue to put on a great Carnival, despite of the limited funding. We thanked Department of Tourism and the office of Management and Budget for their continuous support in receiving the funding as quickly as possible.

Hence, next year will be the 65th Anniversary of Carnival. In order to put on a fantastic Carnival, we need an appropriation of \$900,000.00 which we are hereby requesting in advance.

Sponsorships are coming slowly.

Further, we had several meetings with the Mr. Mervin Potter, the Administrator at Government House in preparation for the upcoming carnival events. We will be meeting with the various inter-departmental heads real soon.

The stage in the ballpark is presently being constructed for the upcoming activities. We were unable to secure sponsorship in lieu of building material for the stage. Therefore, we had to purchase the material. This year, we have decided to put the stage in the Carnival Village in a different direction. The back of the stage will be facing the Alexander Farrelly's Criminal Justice Complex.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony, and I am available to answer any questions.



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Presentation

To

The Committee of Culture, Historic Preservation,

Youth & Recreation

Of

The Thirty-first Legislature

St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands

March 8, 2016, Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

10:30 a.m.

*Kenneth L. Blake
Chairman, VICC*

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Carnival Time!

April 02 – April 30, 2016

Carnival Theme:

"Nothing is More Fabulous than Carnival in St. Thomas"

Carnival Village: "Showtime HQ"

Honoring: Jam Band

Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, APRIL 02, 2016

Calypso Elimination Tent

8:00 P.M. ♦ Venue - To Be Announced

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016

Prince & Princess Selection Show

5:00 P.M. ♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016

Queen Selection Show

8:00 P.M. ♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016

Best Dressed Doll @ 4:30 P.M.

Toddlers Derby @ 5:00 P.M.

♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

Traditional Games

7:00 P.M. ♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

Carnival at the Schneider Hospital

6:00 P.M. ♦ Hospital Lobby (First Floor)

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016

Junior Calypso Competition

8:00 P.M. ♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

Cultural Night

8:00 P.M. ♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016

Opening of Carnival Village

6:00 P.M. ♦ Fort Christian Parking Lot

Village Entertainment Continues

Through Saturday, April 30, 2016

8:00 P.M. ♦ Fort Christian Parking Lot

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016

V.I. Calypso Competition &

International Explosion

8:00 P.M. ♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016

Water Sports Activities

10:00 A.M. ♦ Charlotte Amalie Harbor

Steelband Jamboree

5:00 P.M. ♦ Lionel Roberts Stadium

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

Village Entertainment Continues

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016

Senior Citizens' Quelbe Tramp

8:00 P.M. ♦ Rothschild Francis Square

(Market Square) to Carnival Village

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016

Cultural Fair - "Theresa's Sweet Shop"

Honoring: Theresa Davis

8:00 A.M. ♦ Emancipation Garden

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

Roas-A-Time (J'ouvert) Warm-up

12:30 A.M. to Roas-A-Time

Fort Christian Parking Lot

Roas-A-Time

4:00 A.M. ♦ Veteran's Drive

FRIDAY, April 29, 2016

Children's Parade

GRAND MARSHAL: Denise A. Henley

10:00 A.M. ♦ Rothschild Francis Square

(Market Square) to Lionel Roberts Stadium

SATURDAY, April 30, 2016

Adult's Parade

GRAND MARSHAL: Ambrose Schmidt

10:00 A.M. ♦ Western Cemetery to

Lionel Roberts Stadium

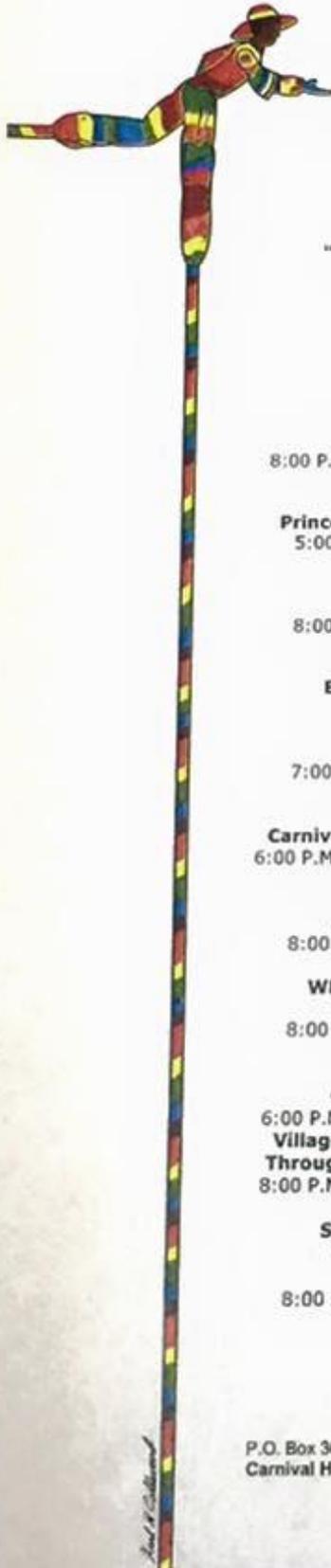
Fireworks

9:00 P.M. ♦ Charlotte Amalie Harbor

Calypso Spectakula / Last Lap

10:00 P.M. – 3:00 A.M.

Fort Christian Parking Lot



Virgin Islands Carnival Committee, Inc.

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