



May 3, 2016

Senator Jackson
Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
Charlotte Amalie, VI 00804

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Olympic Committee**
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Good Afternoon Senator Jackson and Other Members of the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation.

Thank you for the invitation to provide an update on preparations for the 2016 Olympic Games and advancements the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee (VIOC) has made towards the development of "Sports Tourism" in the Virgin Islands.

The VIOC will send a delegation to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil August 5-21, 2016. Our elite Virgin Islands athletes have been busy training since the Pan American Games last August to meet the standards set by their respective International Federations in order to be able to participate in the Rio Olympics. To date we have six athletes qualified; in Boxing - Clayton Laurent, Sailing - Cy Thompson, Swimming - Rex Tillius, and Track & Field - Laverne Jones, Eddie Lovett & Muhammad Halim. They and others who are still trying to qualify have been receiving financial support in order for them to focus on their training. We expect another three athletes to qualify before the qualifying period is over. We are expecting a V. I. delegation of seventeen including athletes, coaches, and officials. We are currently working on the Opening Ceremony dress for our delegation.

The VIOC encourages our member Federations to submit proposals during their regional meetings to host regional events in the Virgin Islands. The following events were held by our member Federations this Fiscal Year:

- December 4-6, 2015 - the Sailing Federation held the Carlos Aguilar Match Racing in the St. Thomas harbor.



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- January 10, 2016 - the Swimming Federation held the Open Beach Mile Swim in St. Croix.
- March 24-28, 2016 - the Chess Federation hosted the CARIFTA Jr. Chess Championship in St. Croix.
- March 25-27, 2016 - the Sailing Federation hosted the St. Thomas International Regatta.
- March 26, 2016 - the Soccer Federation hosted a team from Grenada in a FIFA Qualifier Tournament in St. Thomas.

Other events by the Sailing (June), Soccer (June & July), and Volleyball (September) Federations will be held before the end of the 2016 fiscal year. More events could be brought to our shores if sport facilities such as the track at Kean High School, the Paul E. Joseph Stadium and the Multi-Purpose Sport Complex in St. Croix are completed.

The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee is committed to promoting the Virgin Islands and help develop the "Sport Tourism" industry. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Angel L. Morales
President

CC: VIOC Office