

PREPARED STATEMENT OF

THE NEW CARIBBEAN DRAG RACING ASSOCIATION (“CDRA”)

BY RAYMOND KEAN, JR. – BOARD MEMBER

BEFORE THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE

HON. SENATOR MYRON JACKSON OF

THE THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

STATUS OF DRAG RACING IN THE TERRITORY AND SITE FOR

ST. THOMAS, V.I.

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

EARLE B.OTTLEY LEGISLATIVE HALL

9:00 A.M.

Good Morning Honorable Chairman, Senator Myron Jackson and other Committee Members, other Senators of the 31st Legislature, and to the listening and viewing audience, I am Raymond Kean, Jr. a board member of the New Caribbean Drag Racing Association (“CDRA”) which was initially established in 1984 as a non profit corporation. The entity was reactivated in 2014. Rafael J. Frontal, Jr. is the President and Malcolm George is the V. President. The Board currently comprises of eleven (11) members from both Districts and I am a member from the STT/STJ District. The New CDRA has been operating on a use agreement with the V.I. Port Authority for the drag facility located at Est. Bethlehem, located across the street from the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport and next door to the Randolph Doc James Horse Racing Complex. The drag racing facility is located on prime property with great potential for expansion and becoming a state of the art drag racing facility once its afforded the proper maintenance and financing needed.

Currently, the only drag racing facility in the USVI is in a state of disrepair. It is in need of structural repairs to both the building and the drag racing strip, which was previously half a mile long. Due to deterioration and damage from the ongoing construction that was taking place at the neighboring property for several months, the drag strip is now reduced to about ¼ mile due to damage. Great strides have been made to include the STT/STJ district in drag racing activities in the STX District, in light of the deficit due to the lack of a drag racing facility in this District. While Racers from this District as well as BVI, have traveled to the STX District to participate in drag racing events, mainly on holiday weekends, the cost of barge transportation and related

expenses to transport the vehicles, as well travel for Racers, families and supporters has been astronomical. It has created a hardship on the Racers from this District and the new CDRA is in full support of a drag racing facility in the STT/STJ District.

A possible consideration is weighing the costs, both long term and short term for the establishment of a drag racing facility at a conveniently located site in STT. The New CDRA wholeheartedly promotes and supports legally sanctioned drag racing, which has great potential for sports tourism in the USVI. Our non profit Organization has already formed and fostered long lasting relationships with other drag racing entities on the Mainland and in the Caribbean Region, to include BVI, Puerto Rico, Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Marten and Orlando, Florida, among others. The camaraderie and support has been encouraging, as the Racers are dedicated and truly love the sport. There has been an overwhelming interest in the USVI and the Racers from the neighboring islands look forward to coming to the USVI to participate in drag racing activities.

Hence, the issue, will it be less expensive to work out arrangements on our behalf to ensure subsidized cost of barge expenses so Racers from this District and other Caribbean Islands can more readily travel to the STX district to participate in drag racing activities. The cost of the repairs will also have to factored in vs. the overall cost and expenses associated with establishing a drag racing facility from scratch in the STT/STJ District. Either way, a cost analysis may prove helpful and The New CDRA pledges its full support of this endeavor. In the event it works out, STX would also travel to the STT/STJ District to participate in racing activities provided the barge expenses are regulated. I can tell you first hand of my experiences, bordering on exhortion during my efforts to coordinate barge transportation for vehicles from

the STT/STJ District over to the sister island of STX for weekend racing. Phenomenally expensive and unheard of, truly discouraging and in need of Government intervention, among other things. Last but not least, we, the new CDRA, members of the public, our supporters fans and families truly appreciate your efforts to keep drag racing alive in the Territory and look forward to the continued dialogue. We also hope that the Government of the V.I. will see the great potential in sports tourism and do its part to help support, subsidize and promote drag racing as a great potential for taking sports tourism to the next level in the USVI. The new CDRA is proud of our Facebook followers which has now grown to a few thousand fans and followers and growing daily. Feel free to visit our page and like us on facebook as our social media presence has been inspiring and the New CDRA wants to continue to do its part to keep drag racing alive and well in the U.S. Virgin Islands. I appreciate the opportunity and I am open to any questions the Committee may have.