



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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POST AUDIT DIVISION

July 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET HEARING

VIRGIN ISLANDS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

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BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Virgin Islands Carnival Committee, Inc. (the Committee) was incorporated on March 31, 1976 on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands as a non-profit organization.

The primary functions of the Committee are:

- ✚ To promote, supervise, and direct all activities related to the celebration of the annual Virgin Islands Carnival.
- ✚ To encourage advancement of Carnival.
- ✚ To assist in obtaining and directing all resources in the Virgin Islands for the accomplishment of the success of Carnival.
- ✚ To assist in the promotion and celebration of the lesser festival activities through the various parts of the islands.
- ✚ To assist, where possible, all organizations desiring assistance in promoting Carnival and neighboring festivities.
- ✚ To explore possible sources of technical and financial assistance to the committee from trusts, government agencies and organizations interested and involved in the advancement of Carnival.
- ✚ To facilitate the flow of assistance to educate the public.
- ✚ To encourage greater awareness of the value of Carnival.
- ✚ To promote and encourage legislation fostering Carnival activities and implementing such legislation.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee's mission statement is *“to preserve and promote Virgin Islands culture and enhance US Virgin Islands Tourism.*

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Governor has not recommended a General Fund appropriation from the Miscellaneous Section of the budget for Fiscal Year 2017. **\$1,385,000** is being allocated from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund for Carnival's and Festivals activities throughout the territory. Per discussions with the Office of Management and Budget the allocated amount will be divided as follows:

- VI Carnival - \$545,000
- Crucian Christmas Festival Organization, Inc. - \$520,000
- St. John Festival and Cultural Organization - \$320,000

SUMMARY

The Governor has not recommended any General Funds from the Fiscal Year 2017 Executive Budget for the Committee. It is understood that Virgin Islands Carnival Committee operating budget will be appropriated from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund in the amount of **\$545,000**. To date, the Post Audit Division has not received any budgetary or expense information from the Virgin Islands Carnival Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jose L. George".

Jose L. George
Post Auditor