



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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POST AUDIT DIVISION

July 22, 2016

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET HEARING

VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXI CAB COMMISSION

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BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission was re-established in 2007 by Act No. 6968 as a semi-autonomous agency.

The Commission is comprised of a nine (9) member board, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. The Board members are as follows:

Board Members	Title
Sweeney Toussaint Jr	Chairman
Lawrence Ramdansingh	Vice - Chairman
Joyce Griffin	Member
Angie Smith	Member
Secundino Roman- Cruz	Member
Richard Doument	Member
Cedric Armstrong	Member
Horace Graham	Member
Camille Paris Jr.	Member

The Taxi License Fund is the sole funding source for this agency. This fund covers all personnel and operating expenses throughout the territory. Revenues for the Commission are derived from the issuance of business licenses, forms, publications, penalties, and citations.

The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission is charged with the responsibility of regulating the:

- Automobile-for-hire industry which includes taxis.
- Tour operators and limousines.

In order to execute these responsibilities safely, the agency must improve operational efficiency and effectiveness by educating industry operators and consumers.

Achievements of organizational goals necessitate:

- a) Updating the Rules and Regulations Handbook for all automobile-for-hire operators.
- b) Implementation of “United in Pride and Hope”; a professional development program designed for the benefit of all first-time industry operators and all other industry operators interested in service improvement.

The automobile-for-hire industry is a valuable and critical asset to the Territory’s #1 industry, tourism, and to the local community. Periodic reviews of policy and procedures ensure a safe, reliable, and regulated industry, as well as growth in revenue.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission “*is to oversee the operation of vehicles for hire through regulations, education, and enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the Taxicab Industry and to ensure the delivery of transportation services that will enhance our tourism product, customer experience, and serve the local community through courteous, respectful, and knowledgeable operators in a cost effective manner*”.

STRATEGIC AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

Strategic Goal(s):

1. Regulate the automobile for hire industry.
2. Maintain operational effectiveness and efficiency.

Performance Goal(s):

1. Ensure all businesses and individuals are licensed and in compliance.
2. Ensure all monies collected are deposited into the Taxi Licensed Fund.
3. Launch the Professional Development Program for all new industry operators.

FY 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During FY 2016 Budget Hearing, the Commission vowed to meet the accomplishments of their mission. The Commission continually states that communication amongst stakeholders is very challenging and is endeavouring to make it easier.

Some of the goals achieved were:

- Hired an enforcement officer.
- Conducted a Professional Development Seminar in customer service for new taxi and tour operators.

FY 2017 GOALS

- To develop an electronic database of taxi medallions, medallion owners, and taxi operators.
- To launch a Professional Development Seminar for all taxi operators, in an effort to educate them on the history of the United States Virgin Islands.
- To create a website for Taxi Cab Commission

BUDGET OVERVIEW

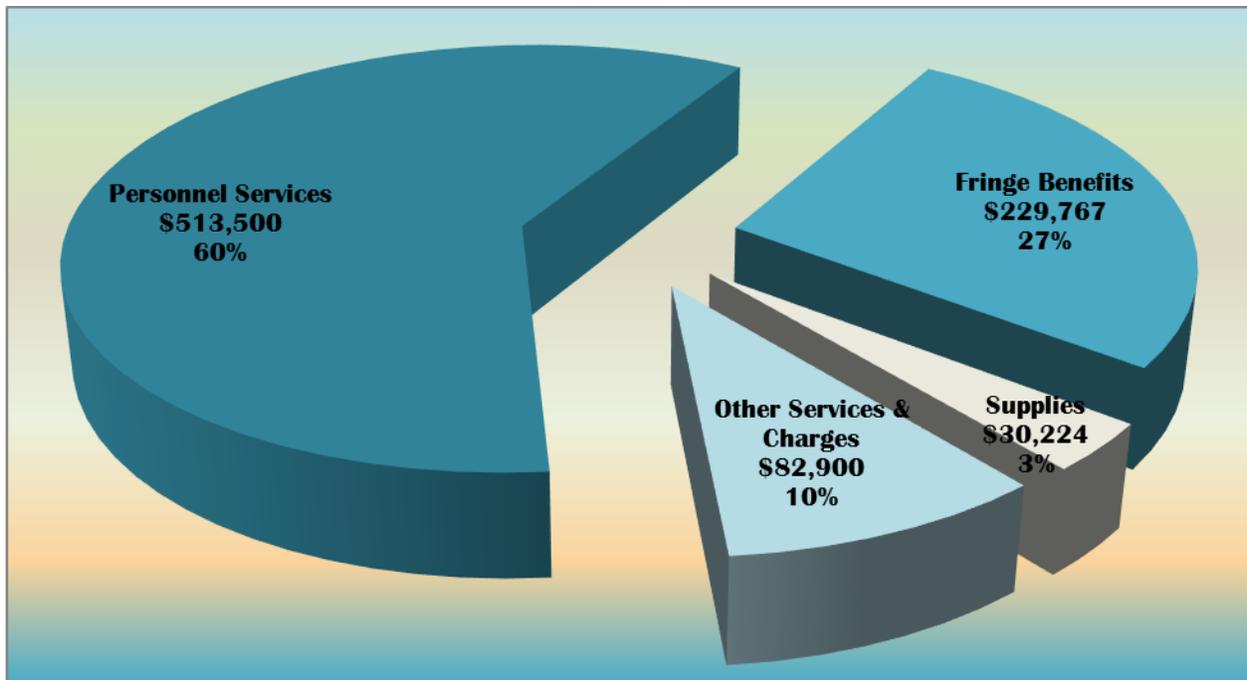
The Governor has recommended a Taxi License Fund appropriation of **\$856,391** for FY 2017. This represents an increase of **\$316,847** above the FY 2016 appropriation of **\$539,544**. *Exhibit I* displays a budget overview (FY 2015- FY2017) according to the FY 2017 Executive Budget Book.

Exhibit I

Taxi License Fund	FY 2015 Expenditure	FY 2016 Appropriation	FY 2017 Recommendation	FY17 & FY 16 Variance	% Change
Personnel Services	\$316,717	\$329,854	\$513,500	\$183,646	56 %
Fringe Benefits	128,631	150,690	229,767	79,077	52%
Supplies	18,917	18,000	30,224	12,224	68%
Other Services & Charges	23,917	41,000	82,900	41,900	102%
Totals	\$488,181	\$539,544	\$856,391	\$316,847	59%

Exhibit II displays a pictorial overview of FY 2017 Governor’s recommended budget of **\$856,391**.

Exhibit II



The Governor has recommended a Taxi License Fund appropriation in the amount of **\$856,391** for FY 2017. This represents an increase of **\$316,847** above the Commission’s FY 2017 request

of \$539,544. *Exhibit III* displays a summarized listing of the Commission’s Requests and the Governor’s Recommendation for FY 2017.

Exhibit III

Taxi License Fund	Commission’s FY 2017 Request	Governor’s FY 2017 Recommendation	Variance	% Change
Personnel Services	\$323,553	\$513,500	\$189,947	59%
Fringe Benefits	138,868	229,767	90,899	65%
Supplies	27,223	30,224	3,001	11%
Other Services & Charges	49,900	82,900	33,000	151%
Totals	\$539,544	\$856,391	\$ 316,847	59%

Exhibit IV displays a detailed listing of the Commission’s FY 2015 actual expenditures, FY 2016 expenditures as of May 12, 2016, and FY 2017 requests.

Exhibit IV

Taxi License Fund	FY 2015 Actual	Year to Date Oct 1, 2015- May 12, 2016	FY 2017 Request
Personnel Services			
Classified Employee Salaries	\$104,856	\$ 21,363	\$105,261
Unclassified Employee Salaries	136,952	39,570	180,792
Temp/ Part Time Salaries	2,775	450	-
Overtime Salaries	3,934	1,044	-
Fees & Compensation NOC	26,845	-	28,000
Holiday Pay	14,590	2,994	9,500
All Other – Accrued Leave/ Sick Pay	26,764	5,877	-
Total Personnel Services	316,716	71,298	323,553
Fringe Benefits			
Employer Contribution Retirement	46,481	10,418	58,641
FICA	19,636	4,420	20,060
Medicare	4,592	1,034	4,692
Health Insurance Premium	56,994	10,358	54,826
Workers Compensation Premium	927	-	649
Total Fringe Benefits	\$128,630	\$26,230	\$138,868

Taxi License Fund	FY 2015 Actual	Year to Date Oct 1, 2015- May 12, 2016	FY 2017 Request
Supplies			
Office Supplies	\$ 4,974	\$ 633	\$ 6,000
Operating Supplies	13,815	-	21,223
Total Supplies	18,789	633	27,223
Other Services & Charges			
Professional Services	352	-	6,500
Communications	225	-	400
Travel	4,390	2,090	8,000
Transportation- Not travel	20	-	
Printing & Binding	1,317	800	3,000
Repairs & Maintenance	-	4,419	10,000
Rental- Land & Building	5,240	12,000	12,000
Rental – Machine/ Equipment	12,000	-	-
Training	500	300	4,000
All Other NOC	8,816	-	6,000
Total Other Services & Charges	32,860	19,609	49,900
Totals	\$496,995	\$117,770	\$539,544

MISCELLANEOUS SECTION

The Taxi License Fund was created pursuant to Act No.7873, *Miscellaneous Section*. The Governor’s recommended amount for FY 2016 lump sum appropriations was **\$130,730**. As of May 25, 2016 the commission has received its full allotment of **\$130,730**. The Commission is expected to receive **\$305,312** from the *Miscellaneous Section* of the Executive Budget as a contribution to the Taxi License Fund for FY 2017.

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Personnel Services represents approximately **60%** of the Governor’s FY 2017 recommended appropriation of **\$856,391**. The Commission is requesting a budget of **\$323,553** for Personnel Services for FY 2017 as compared to the Governor’s recommendation of **\$513,500**. The recommended amount represents an increase of **\$183,646** above FY 2016 Personnel Services of **\$329,854**. A summary listing is displayed in *Exhibit V*. A detailed listing of all funded positions can be viewed in *Appendix I*.

PERSONNEL SERVICES CONTINUED

Exhibit V

480 Taxicab Commission		
Org 21144801	Salary	No. of Pos.
Unclassified Filled	\$180,792	4
Classified Filled	77,060	3
Classified Vacant	195,402	7
Adjustment	60,246	-
Totals	\$513,500	14

VACANCY LISTING

Exhibit VI displays the current vacant positions.

Exhibit VI

Position	Salary	Status
Admin Secretary/ Reception	\$27,000	Vacant
Administrative Secretary	22,000	Vacant
Enforcement Officer	30,000	Vacant
Enforcement Officer	30,000	Vacant
Enforcement Officer	30,000	Vacant
Taxi Inspector	28,201	Vacant
Taxi Inspector	28,201	Vacant
Totals	\$195,402	7

LEASED PROPERTY

The Commission’s leased property agreement comprises several costs. The square footage of the office space, electricity, and water charges associated with that specific area. *Exhibit VII* displays the current lease.

Exhibit VII

Landlord	Physical Address	Sq. Ft.	Annual Rent
Department of Property & Procurement	1 st Floor Building No. 1 Sub Base, St. Thomas	1,600	\$12,000

VEHICLE LISTING

The Commission’s overall vehicle expenses are **\$5,577**. Maintenance costs total **\$3,077** and gasoline charges are **\$2,500**. *Exhibit VIII* provides a detailed listing of the Commission’s vehicles for FY 2017.

Exhibit VIII

St. Thomas / St. John District					
Tag No.	Year	Make	Model	Maintenance	Gasoline
TCC-1	2008	Blazer	Chevy	\$2,493	\$ -
TCC-3	2008	Blazer	Chevy	269	530
TCC-10	2005	Envoy	GMC	269	970
			Totals	\$3,031	\$1,500

St. Croix District					
Tag No.	Year	Make	Model	Maintenance	Gasoline
TCC -2	2008	Blazer	Chevy	\$46	\$ -
TCC-4	2005	Envoy	GMC	-	1,000
			Totals	\$46	\$1,000

HIGHLIGHTS

The Post Audit Division made the following discoveries while analyzing the information provided by the Commission:

- The FY 2015 total expenditures amount submitted according to the FY 2017 Executive budget book is **\$488,181**, but as per detailed expenditures submitted by the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission the amount totalled **\$496,995** - a difference of **\$8,814**. (Exhibit I compared to Exhibit IV)

SUMMARY

The Governor’s recommendation from the Taxi License Fund for FY 2017 is **\$856,391**. This represents an increase of **\$316,847** above FY 2016 appropriation of **\$539,544**. As of May 25, 2016 the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission has received its full allotment of **\$539,544**.



Jose L. George
 Post Auditor

**APPENDIX I
 VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXICAB COMMISSION
 2017 PERSONNEL LISTING**

POSITION TITLE		SALARY	STATUS
480 TAXICAB COMMISSION			
48000 ACTIVITY			
ORG 21144801			
<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>			
HOLIDAY PAY		\$10,000	
FEES & COMPENSATION		7,500	
		42,746	
SUBTOTAL		60,246	
<u>UNCLASSIFIED</u>			
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR		80,000	FILLED
SPECIAL ASST TO DIRECTOR		35,000	FILLED
CHIEF ENFORCEMENT OFFICER		34,591	FILLED
DEPUTY CHIEF ENFMT. OFFICER		31,201	FILLED
SUBTOTAL	4	180,792	
<u>CLASSIFIED</u>			
ADMIN SECRETARY/ RECEPTION		27,000	VACANT
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY		22,000	VACANT
COLLECTION CLERK		20,658	FILLED
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER		30,000	VACANT
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER		30,000	VACANT
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER		30,000	VACANT
TAXI INSPECTOR		28,201	FILLED
TAXI INSPECTOR		28,201	FILLED
TAXI INSPECTOR		28,201	VACANT
TAXI INSPECTOR		28,201	VACANT
SUBTOTAL	10	272,462	
TOTAL	14	\$513,500	