



GOVERNMENT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXICAB COMMISSION

Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission
FY 2017 Budget Overview

Good day Honorable Clifford Graham, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, members of the Committee on Finance, other Senators and Staff, members of the listening and viewing audience, and Taxicab Commission Staff. I am Levron Sarauw, Sr., Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission. Today, we appear before the Committee on Finance to present an overview of the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget for the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission. I have with me Mr. Sweeney Toussaint, Chairman of the Board.

The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission is a semi-autonomous agency of the Government of the Virgin Islands. The Commission is comprised of nine (9) members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature.

MISSION

The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission oversees the operation of the Automobile-for-hire in the territory. This includes issuance of automobile-for hire business licenses and vigorous enforcement of laws, rules and regulations that governs the industry. The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission's objective is to ensure the delivery of safe, courteous, and consistent taxi transportation services that will enhance our tourism product, as well as serve the local community. We will continue to work with all areas of the tourism industry to facilitate and support their efforts.

STRATEGIC GOALS

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

PERFORMANCE GOALS

1. Ensure all taxi operators businesses are licensed and are in compliance.
2. Ensure all monies collected are deposited into the Taxi License Fund daily.
3. Continue the "United in Pride and Hope", a professional development program for person's entering the automobile-for-hire business for the first time and other industry operators interested in service improvement.

FUNDING

The funding source for the Taxicab Commission is the Taxi License Fund, which was established by Act No. 5172. Revenues for this fund are generated through payments for taxi exams, badges, and sale of medallions, issuance of business licenses, title searches, recording and releasing of liens, miscellaneous forms, publications, penalties and citations. Thus far this fiscal year we have processed 1,141 business licenses; 865 for St. Thomas/St. John and 276 on St. Croix. Fifty-eight taxi citations were issued; 11 on St. Croix and 47 on St. Thomas/St. John. Ninety-seven Superior Court citations were issued; 95 on St. Croix and 2 on St. Thomas/St. John. There were 32 complaints filed by citizens against automobile for hire operators, of that amount, 12 were for misconduct, 5 for accidents and 15 were for other miscellaneous complaints.

2017 BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Chairman please allow me a moment to thank Governor Kenneth Mapp and the members of the 31st Legislature for appropriating the sum of \$130,370.00 to the Commission in FY2016 for salary increases, new staff, and networking equipment. In our 2017 budget, the Commission will also receive an appropriation contribution from the General Fund in the amount of \$305,312.00 to sustain the salaries, new employees, and maintaining our computer equipment. The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission was granted a budget totaling \$856,391.00 for FY2017.

The breakdown of the budget is as follows:

\$513,500.00 is for Personnel Services
\$229,767.00 is for Fringe Benefits
\$30,224.00 is for Supplies
\$82,900.00 is for Other Services and Charges
\$856,391.00 Total

Miscellaneous appropriation: TCC – Contribution to the Taxi License Fund \$305,312.00

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Six (6) professional development classes were held for new applicants for taxi class (c) licenses. Two (2) classes on St. Croix and four (4) classes on St. Thomas/St. John for a total of one hundred and twenty (120) applicants.
2. We added one new member to our St. Croix staff.
3. The salary increases for the employees have been implemented, and the retroactive up to January 2016 as been paid as well.
4. We are in the process of acquiring a new computer system to improve the day to day technology processes and improve record keeping for the Commission.

Personnel Services	\$ 513,500.00
Fringe	229,767.00
Supplies	30,224.00
Other Svs. & Charges	82,900.00
Utilities	-
	<u>\$ 856,391.00</u>

