

**TESTIMONY TO THE 31ST LEGISLATURE'S
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Provision of a Temporary and Permanent Residence for
The Governor of the Virgin Islands and
WICO PILOT**

Adriane J. Dudley, Esq.
Counsel to
West Indian Company Limited

THE HONORABLE NEVILLE JAMES, PRESIDENT OF THE THIRTY- FIRST LEGISLATURE,
SENATORS, LEGISLATIVE STAFF, FELLOW TESTIFIERS, VIEWERS, LISTENERS, MEDIA
AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THIS MORNING.

GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS ADRIANE J. DUDLEY, COUNSEL TO THE WEST
INDIAN COMPANY, LIMITED.

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE GOVERNOR TO RESIDE IN THE CAPITAL PER
THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT OF 1954 §11**

UNDER THE ORGANIC ACT, THE GOVERNOR IS REQUIRED TO HAVE HIS OFFICIAL
RESIDENCE ON ST. THOMAS AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

...THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAINTAIN HIS OFFICIAL
RESIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON
SAINT THOMAS DURING HIS INCUMBENCY,
WHICH HOUSE, TOGETHER WITH LAND
APPURTENANT THERETO, IS HEREBY
TRANSFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS. WHILE IN SAINT CROIX THE
GOVERNOR MAY RESIDE IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE

ON SAINT CROIX, WHICH HOUSE, TOGETHER WITH LAND APPURTENANT THERETO IS ALSO TRANSFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON ST. THOMAS IS NO LONGER A RESIDENCE. PREVIOUS LEGISLATURES HAVE RECOGNIZED THIS FACT AS WELL AS THE NEED TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT RESIDENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN JANUARY 2012 IN BILL NO. 29-0253; IN MAY 6, 2013 IN BILL NO. 30-0092 AND, MOST RECENTLY IN FEBRUARY 17, 2015 IN BILL NO. 31-0052, EACH OF WHICH SOUGHT TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF CATHERINEBERG IN EXCHANGE FOR OFFSETS AGAINST WICO'S PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES. WE KNOW THAT THE 3RD FLOOR OF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE WHICH USED TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE "RESIDENCE" IS CURRENTLY AN OFFICE SPACE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT IN ORDER TO REFLECT THAT REALITY OR THAT AUTHORIZE THE SITTING GOVERNOR TO RESIDE AT ESTATE CATHERINEBERG.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ENTERED INTO A ONE YEAR LEASE TO BE RENEWED AUTOMATICALLY EVERY YEAR WITH WICO, THE OWNER OF ESTATE CATHERINEBERG, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1.00 PER YEAR AT THE TIME OF THE WICO PURCHASE UNDER THE FARRELLY ADMINISTRATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE LEASE WAS SPECIFICALLY SPELLED OUT IN SECTION 3:

3. THE USE. TENANT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE RENTAL RATE NEGOTIATED AND FIXED HEREIN IS BASED ON TENANT'S COMMITMENT TO RESTRICT ITS USAGE OF THE PREMISES AS HEREINAFTER SET FORTH. TENANT COVENANTS AND AGREES THAT SAID PREMISES, DURING THE TERM OF THIS LEASE, SHALL BE USED AND OCCUPIED SOLELY AS

**A RESIDENCE FOR THE GOVERNOR OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS....(EMPHASIS SUPPLIED)**

GOVERNOR ROY SCHNEIDER LIVED PART-TIME AT THE PROPERTY DURING HIS TENURE. GOVERNOR TURNBULL RESIDED THERE FULL-TIME UNTIL HE BECAME ILL DUE TO THE MOLD PROBLEMS AND WAS REQUIRED TO MOVE OUT ON A TEMPORARY BASIS WHILE THE DENMARK HILL WAS BEING RENOVATED.

GOVERNOR DEJONGH DID NOT LIVE AT CATHERINEBERG DURING HIS EIGHT YEAR TENURE AND INSTEAD HAD HIS PERSONAL RESIDENCE OUTFITTED WITH SECURITY FEATURES.

THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT THAT PROVIDES FOR AN OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

I REMAIN AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS ANY CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING MY TESTIMONY.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
ADRIANE J. DUDLEY