

TESTIMONY

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES,
CONSUMER AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
31ST LEGISLATURE OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015**

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN JUSTIN HARRIGAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CONSUMER AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS TO THE LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE. I AM DELROY RICHARDS, SR., COMMISSIONER DESIGNEE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

TODAY I AM HERE TO PROVIDE THIS BODY WITH TESTIMONY REGARDING BILL NO. 31-003 WHICH IS AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 20 VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE, CHAPTER 49, SECTION 741 TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF "ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THE AMENDMENT AS BEING PROPOSED AND REQUEST OF THIS BODY TO INCLUDE THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE TOWING AND WRECKER SERVICES TO RECOVER THE COST OF REMOVING OR STORING ABANDONED VEHICLES WHICH WILL BE RECOVERED, REMOVED OR STORED UPON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

I BELIEVE THAT THE LIEN PROVISIONS OF APPLICABLE LAWS SHOULD BE APPLIED ACCORDINGLY. FURTHER, AFTER PROPER NOTIFICATION, IF THE ABANDONED VEHICLE BEING STORED REMAINS UNCLAIMED, OR FOR WHICH TOWING OR STORAGE FEES ARE UNPAID, THAT VEHICLE MAY BE SOLD BY THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE STORAGE LOT.

I BELIEVE THAT 45 DAYS IS THE STORAGE PERIOD TO BE CONSIDERED.

I REMAIN AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION. THANK YOU.