

**TESTIMONY ON BILL NO. 31-0387**  
**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CONSUMER AND**  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
**31<sup>st</sup> LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016**  
**EARLE B. OTTLEY LEGISLATIVE HALL**  
**ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**CLARINA MODESTE ELLIOTT,**  
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**  
**ON BEHALF OF:**  
**VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

GOOD MORNING, HONORABLE JUSTIN HARRIGAN, SR., CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CONSUMER & VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE CHAIRMAN, SENATOR MYRON D. JACKSON; COMMITTEE MEMBERS SENATOR NEVILLE JAMES; SENATOR SAMUEL SANES; SENATOR JANETTE MILLIN YOUNG; SENATOR "POSITIVE" NELSON; SENATOR TREGENZA ROACH; NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, THE MEDIA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS AND THE LISTENING AND VIEWING COMMUNITY.

I AM CLARINA MODESTE ELLIOTT, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE APPEARING TODAY ON BEHALF OF VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

AT YOUR INVITATION, I AM HERE TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY WITH RESPECT TO BILL NO. 31-0387 AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 3 VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE, CHAPTER 33 PERTAINING TO EXPEDITED GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

THE BILL PROPOSES AN EXPEDITED SERVICE FEE EQUAL TO 1 1/3 OF THE NORMAL PROCESSING FEE. BASED ON OUR RESEARCH, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THAT A FEW GVI AGENCIES ARE CURRENTLY CHARGING A HIGHER "EXPEDITED SERVICE FEE", SPECIFICALLY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. IN ORDER TO REMAIN CONSISTENT, WE ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COUPLE RECOMMENDATIONS.

WE RECOMMEND PROPOSING A "MINIMUM" EXPEDITED SERVICE FEE OF THE 1 1/3 OF THE REGULAR SERVICE CHARGE. ADDITIONALLY, WE FIND THAT SIX (6) WORKING DAYS FOR PROCESSING EXPEDITED REQUESTS SEEMS LENGTHY AND SHOULD BE REDUCED TO NO MORE THAN TWO (2) BUSINESS DAYS FROM RECEIVING THE ADVANCE PAYMENT, TO ENCOMPASS THE ESSENCE OF "EXPEDITED SERVICE".

HOWEVER, IF THE SERVICE BY NATURE CANNOT BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED TIME FRAME, THEN A CASE BY CASE BASIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CONSUMER AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
OCTOBER 5, 2016

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY AND I  
REMAIN AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS YOU OR MEMBERS  
OF THIS BODY MAY HAVE AS IT RELATES TO THE PROPOSED  
LEGISLATION BEING CONSIDERED.

THANK YOU.