

# Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Honorable Osbert E. Potter  
Lieutenant Governor



Testimony before the Committee on  
Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs

On Bill No. 31-0387

October 5, 2016

Presenter: Delbert Hewitt, Chief of Staff

Good Afternoon, Senator Harrigan, Chairman, all other members of the Committee on Government Services of the 31st Legislature, all other senators present, listening and viewing audience. I am Delbert Hewitt, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Here with me today is Mr. Ira Mills, Tax Assessor.

Mr. Chairman, I am here today to provide testimony on Bill No. 31-0387, “An Act amending Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 33 pertaining to expedited government services”.

While the Office of the Lieutenant Governor is in support of the bill, I will make the following comments:

With respect to section (a) of Section 882a which was added, the present expedited fees applied by Corporations and Trademarks and Cadastral (in some cases but not all cases) exceed the  $1\frac{1}{3}$  additional fee proposed by the bill. In the case of Corporations and Trademarks, Act 6204 sets the amount of the expedite fee which is the regular filing fee plus \$250.00. In the Cadastral section in the Real Property Division, the expedite fee for attestation is \$125.00 with a 48-hr turnaround time. This is above the one and one third being recommended in the bill and could result in a loss of revenue if modified.

In section (c) with respect to payment methods, we would add credit cards as a payment method.

In section (d) we would suggest that if the service cannot be rendered within the six (6) working days, that the service not be provided *free of charge* but the customer be charged at least the regular fee charged for the service provided.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. Mr. Mills and I are available to answer any questions you or members of the committee may have.