

**TESTIMONY ON BILL NO. 31-0157**  
**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CONSUMER**  
**AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**31<sup>st</sup> LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015**  
**FRITS E. LAWAETZ CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**BY:**

**VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

GOOD MORNING, HONORABLE JUSTIN HARRIGAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CONSUMER AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 31st LEGISLATURE, THE MEDIA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS AND THE LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE. I AM VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

I AM HERE TODAY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY WITH RESPECT TO BILL NO. 31-0157, WHICH SEEKS AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 20 OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE CHAPTER 43, SECTION (E), BY DIVIDING ALL MONIES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (E) AS FOLLOWS: ONE HALF TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ONE HALF TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

CURRENTLY, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CITATIONS TO OWNERS OF VEHICLES THAT DAMAGE PUBLIC HIGHWAYS. IN THOSE WHERE THE COURT ASSESSES A FINE, THE FUNDS RELATED TO THESE FINES ARE DEPOSITED INTO THE

TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, THE GRANULAR LEVEL DETAIL RELATED TO THE FINES ASSOCIATED WITH TITLE 20 OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE CHAPTER 43, SECTION (E) COULD NOT BE DETERMINED. MORE SPECIFICALLY, GIVEN THAT TRAFFIC FINES ARE GROUPED UNDER A SINGLE CHARGE CODE (I.E., "TRAFFIC FINES"), THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A SUBSIDIARY ACCOUNTING LEDGER OF THE FINES ASSOCIATED WITH TITLE 20 OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE CHAPTER 43, SECTION (E). NEVERTHELESS, IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT COLLECTIONS OF TRAFFIC FINES AMOUNTED TO \$595K, \$390K AND \$490K IN FISCAL YEARS 2013, 2014 AND 2015, RESPECTIVELY.

THUS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDED LEGISLATION TO ALLOCATE MONIES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO TITLE 20 V.I.C. CHAPTER 43, SECTION (E) EQUALLY BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SUPPORTS THIS

Committee on Government Services, Consumer & Veterans Affairs  
Valdamier O. Collens, Commissioner  
Department of Finance  
October 29, 2015

AMENDMENT AND, IF APPROVED, WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO PROPERLY ACCOUNT FOR THE FINES ASSOCIATED WITH TITLE 20 OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE CHAPTER 43, SECTION (E).

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY. I AM AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE (AND OTHER SENATORS PRESENT) WITH RESPECT TO THE LEGISLATION UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU.

Gov't of the U.S. Virgin Islands  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET FOR 2015 12



OBJ	OBJ DESCRIPTION	NET CHANGE FOR PERIOD	ACCOUNT BALANCE
<b>ASSETS</b>			
101150	EQUITY IN TREASURY	-10,657,422.30	437,665.11
	TOTAL ASSETS	-10,657,422.30	437,665.11
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
205000	RETAINAGE PAYABLE	.00	-57,168.75
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	.00	-57,168.75
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>			
359000	FUND BALANCE	.00	-219,979.80
359010	FUND BALANCE-CONTRA AUDIT	.00	-5,321,143.00
359020	FUND BALANCE-OPENING BAL	.00	36,423.76
383000	APPRO/BUDGETARY	-11,522,632.50	-56,523,707.69
384000	BUD FUND BAL RESERVE ENCUMBRN	.00	-670.93
388000	BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE UNRESRV	11,522,632.50	56,523,707.69
391000	REVENUES RECEIVED	-865,210.20	-10,462,393.82
393000	EXPENDITURES	11,522,632.50	15,586,596.50
394000	ENCUMBRANCES	.00	670.93
	TOTAL FUND BALANCE	10,657,422.30	-380,496.36
	TOTAL LIABILITIES + FUND BALANCE	10,657,422.30	-437,665.11

\*\* END OF REPORT - Generated by MURIEL I. FENTON \*\*

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
**TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND -627 8008/8009**  
**September 30, 2015**

Beginning Balance from F/Y '12		\$ 15,695,587.73
Revenues F/Y '13	\$ 9,822,864.59	
Obligations F/Y '13	<u>(11,624,033.50)</u>	
Net Activity F/Y '13		<u>(1,801,168.91)</u>
Ending Balance 9/30/13		<u>13,894,418.82</u>

Beginning Balance from F/Y '13		13,894,418.82
Revenues F/Y '14	9,183,151.60	
Obligations F/Y '14	<u>(17,572,871.38)</u>	
Net Activity F/Y '14		<u>(8,389,719.78)</u>
Ending Balance 9/30/14		<u>5,504,699.04</u>

Beginning Balance from F/Y '14		5,504,699.04
Revenues F/Y '15	10,462,393.82	
Obligations F/Y '15	<u>(15,586,596.50)</u>	
Net Activity F/Y '15		<u>(5,124,202.68)</u>
<b>Ending Balance 09/30/15</b>		<u><b>\$ 380,496.36</b></u>

Budgeted Balance - Unobligated		(8,788.50)
Encumbrances		<u>(670.93)</u>
<b>Available for Budget</b>		<u><b>\$ 371,036.93</b></u>

Note:

This unaudited balance includes appropriations and encumbrances available but not yet expended

DOF - General Ledger  
 ES - 10/27/15