



GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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VIRGIN ISLANDS FIRE SERVICE
"Providing Safety, Service and Satisfaction"

St. Thomas/St. John: No. 3800 Crown Bay – Ste. 201, St. Thomas, VI 00802 -6462~ Tel: (340) 774-7610 ~ Fax: (340) 774-4630 St. Croix: No. 3019 Orange Grove, St. Croix, VI 00820 ~ Tel: (340) 773-8050 ~ Fax: (340) 778-8346

To: Senator Justin Harrigan Sr., Chairman Committee on Government Services, Veterans, and Consumer Affairs

From: Clifford Joseph, Director Designee Virgin Islands Fire Services

Testimony on Bill 31-0178

Good morning Honorable Senator Justin Harrigan Sr. Chairman of the Committee on Government Services, Veterans, and Consumer Affairs, Honorable members of the Committee on Government Services, Veterans and Consumer Affairs, all other honorable senators of the 31st Legislature, listening and viewing audience. My name is Clifford Joseph, Director Designee of the Virgin Islands Fire Services. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Honorable Senator Justin Harrigan Sr. for inviting me to testify on Bill 31-0178. I am before you this morning along with Fire Marshall Leon Battiste of the St. Thomas/St. John district and Fire Marshall Johnny Frontal of the St. Croix district. It is my professional opinion that mandating the posting of ***the Occupant load factor at the entrance of the building or conspicuous places within the building*** will greatly enhance the Fire Services ability to enforce the occupancy requirement in places of assembly and for that reason I fully support that section of the proposed legislation.

However the time period of 90 days subsequent to the law taking effect that all businesses, rentals laundromats etc. identified in subsection (e) for notification by the Virgin Islands Fire services of their occupancy amount will not be able to be met. This time period appears in Section 2 of the proposed legislation. The Fire services inability to meet that requirement is due to the workload that the Prevention Units in both Districts in presently experiencing with limited manpower. The mandate in Section 2 can readily be met in 270 days (9) months after the proposed legislation goes into effect. We are now available to respond to any questions you may have.