

36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands SENATE CALENDAR March 24, 2025 – April 05, 2025

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

# CHAIR: SENATOR AVERY L. LEWIS VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection 9:30 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for Monday, March 24, 2025, at 9:30 AM in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to provide updates on the following agencies:

# BLOCK I

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) will provide a comprehensive update on the state of the following:

- The current operational status of the territory's power plants;
- Resolutions to customer service and billing issues;
- Any future project plans, cost, and management initiatives;
- WAPA's procurement policies and guidelines;
- Update of the clean water infrastructure, repairs, and maintenance planning;
- Any new conversion of power-generating units and associated costs; and
- Any other matters relative to the discussion of the status of the Authority.

#### **Invited Testifier:**

Mr. Karl Knight, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority

The Public Service Commission (PSC) will provide an update on regulatory concerns as they relate to telecommunications, waste removal guidelines, PSC Assessment Disputes, and energy matters.

#### **Invited Testifier:**

Ms. Sandra L. Setorie, Executive Director, Public Service Commission

#### **BLOCK II**

The Virgin Islands Department of Tourism will provide a comprehensive update on the following:

- Cutting-edge upcoming events;
- Festival and carnival projects passed by the legislative body;
- Use of government resources to host St. Thomas Festival, services such as The Waste Management Authority and Department of Public Works projects that include, trash removal, contractual executions, road safety projects;
- Diversification of tourism product; and
- Any other issues and concerns relevant to the discussion.

#### **Invited Testifier:**

Honorable Joseph B. Boschulte, Commissioner, Department of Tourism

# TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

## **CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

## Reserved

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety TOWN HALL MEETING 5:30 P.M. Rotary West Building – Frederiksted, St. Croix WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

## **CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

Reserved

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety TOWN HALL MEETING 5:30 P.M. Florence A. Williams Library – Christiansted, St. Croix

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

# CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH VICE CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS

Committee on Rules and Judiciary 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a hearing for **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025, in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix.** The purpose of the meeting is to receive testimony and consider the following legislative measures:

#### BLOCK I

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Mrs. Elizabeth Guadalupe-Perez, Governor's Nominee, Virgin Islands Real Estate Appraisers Board

#### 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

. . . . . .

4 00 D 36

Mrs. Trinity Granger-Austrie, EIT, Governor's Nominee, University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees

LUNCH	1:00 P.M 2:00 P.M.
BLOCK III	2:00 P.M 3:30 P.M.
Bill No. <u>36-0028</u>	An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Tropical Marine, Inc., for Parcel No. 37-1 Estate Nadir, No. 2 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and a portion of unsurveyed Estate Nadir, No. 2 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
Bill No. <u>36-0038</u>	An Act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10, subchapter III, section 551, subsection (a) by increasing the limit for outstanding bonds for the Virgin Islands Port Authority from \$100 million to \$500 million
Bill No. <u>36-0040</u>	An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Charles M. Kim V.I. Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Virgin Islands Museum of Art, for a portion of Lot No. 48b Norre Gade, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

# CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN VICE CHAIR: SENATOR CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.

Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunications 9:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunications has scheduled a meeting on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall to receive testimony on the following.

#### BLOCK I

Overview and discussion on the Virgin Islands Housing Authority's operational, fiscal, and human resources status, as well as the outlook for affordable housing supply and demand. Updates will cover the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Emergency Housing Vouchers, public housing, renovations, senior housing, and resident empowerment programs.

## <u>Invited Testifier:</u> Dwayne Alexander, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Authority

## LUNCH

#### **BLOCK II**

Discussion on the current status of homeownership programs across the territory and the outlook for affordable housing and homeownership. The progress of home repair programs, the status of emergency housing initiatives managed by the Authority, and the status of programs aimed at addressing housing instability. Testimony from non-profits entities will address housing instability, the health of organizations supporting affected individuals, collaboration with government agencies, and suggestions for improvement. The session will also include a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis of the housing landscape and efforts to provide solutions.

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Eugene Jones**, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority **Andrea Shillingford**, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands **Dan Derima**, Executive Director, Meeting the Needs of The Community, Inc. **Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras**, Board Secretary, VI Continuum of Care

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

TRANSFER DAY

Holiday

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

# **CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

Reserved

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

#### **CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

Reserved

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

# CHAIR: SENATOR CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR. VICE CHAIR: SENATOR RAY FONSECA

Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The 36th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety will meet on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

#### BLOCK I

#### 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

**Bill No.** <u>36-0027</u> An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, part I, chapter 311 by enacting Jah'niqua's Law requiring a defendant to pay restitution in the form of child maintenance if the victim of the offense was the parent or guardian of a minor child or dependent and if the defendant was convicted of negligent homicide by means of a motor vehicle, a violation of title 20 Virgin Islands Code, section 504, while under the influence of or affected by intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs; or was convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or controlled substances, a violation of title 20 Virgin Islands Code, section 493, which results in an accident that causes the victim to become disabled or totally and permanently disabled

**Invited Testifiers:** 

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police DepartmentHonorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of JusticeMr. Frank Harris, Director of Governmental Affairs, Mothers Against Drunk Driving

#### **BLOCK II**

# 11:10 A.M. - 12:10 P.M.

**Bill No.** <u>36-0036</u> An Act repealing and reenacting title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, section 512 increasing penalties for traffic violations; establishing a Virgin Islands Police Department Impound Lot; and for other related purposes

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department Honorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice

LUNCH BREAK	12:10 P.M 12:55 P.M.
BLOCK III	1:00 P.M 2:00 P.M.

**Bill No.** <u>36-0024</u> An Act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 85 by adding section 1710 declaring a person incapable of consent to sexual relations while the person is in police custody

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department
Honorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice
Ms. Julie Smith Todman, Esq., Chief Public Defender, V.I. Office of the Public Defender
Ms. Anya Stuart, Executive Director, Family Resource Center, Inc.

#### **BLOCK IV**

#### 2:10 P.M. - 3:10 P.M.

**Bill No.** <u>36-0005</u> An Act amending title 16 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 2, section 99 establishing a mandatory minimum bail amount in domestic violence cases

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Honorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of JusticeMs. Anya Stuart, Executive Director, Family Resource Center, Inc.Dr. Clema Lewis, Executive Director, Women's Coalition of St. Croix

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

# **CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

Reserved