



35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
REVISED SENATE CALENDAR
September 23, 2024 – October 04, 2024

MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

PRESIDENT: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN

The Committee of the Whole

10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The **Thirty-Fifth Legislature** will convene in a Committee of the Whole Hearing to receive testimony on the following zonings and CZM permit:

BLOCK I

Bill No. [35-0302](#)

An Act amending Official Zoning Map No. SCZ-11 for the island of St. Croix to rezone Plot No. 8-E Estate Mount Pleasant, Prince Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from R-2 (Residential-Low Density-One and Two Family) to B-3 (Business-Scattered), and Remainder Plot No. 8 Estate Mount Pleasant, Prince Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from R-2 (Residential-Low Density-One and Two Family) to R-3 (Residential-Medium Density)

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Clarence Browne, Representative

Bill No. [35-0321](#)

An Act amending the Official Zoning Map No. SCZ-11 for the island of St. Croix to change the zoning designation of Plot No. 1068 Estate Williams Delight, Prince Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from R-2 (Residential-Low Density-One and Two Family) to R-3 (Residential-Medium Density)

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Clarence Browne, Representative

Bill No. [35-0322](#)

An Act amending Official Zoning Map No. SCZ-18 for the island of St. Croix to rezone Plots No. 36, 37, 38, and 42 Strand Street, Town of Frederiksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from W-1 (Waterfront-Pleasure) to B-1 (Business-Central Business District)

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Clarence Browne, Representative

BR No. 24-1172

Ratification of zoning application for Plot No. 8 Estate Cassava Garden for a use variance to the I-2 (Light Industry) zoning to operate the storage, retail and wholesale of propane

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Sirri Hamad, Applicant
Alicia Barnes, Representative

BLOCK II**Bill No. [35-0280](#)**

An Act ratifying Minor Coastal Zone Permit No. CZX-21-22 (W) issued to Teague Paradise, LLC for the redesign and size reduction of an existing 338 sq. ft. dock, to a 268 sq. ft. dock seaward of Plot 20, Teague Bay, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Marlon Hibbert, Director, Division of Coastal Zone Management, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Michael Joukowsky, President, Teague Paradise, LLC

POSTPONED

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.**

**Committee on Budget,
Appropriations and Finance
2:00 P.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

The Committee of the Budget, Appropriations and Finance meeting scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas has been postponed to Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall.

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR JAVAN E. JAMES, SR.**

**Committee on Government Operations,
Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection
10:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas. The purpose of the meeting is to receive testimony and consider the following legislative measures:

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Bill No. [35-0286](#) An Act honoring and commending Verne Antonio Hodge for his years of dedicated service to the people of the Virgin Islands and its jurisprudence by renaming the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas/St. John, the “Judge Verne A. Hodge Superior Court of the Virgin Islands”.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Rhys Hodge, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands

Honorable Debra Watlington, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

Honorable Maria Cabret, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands

Honorable Brenda J. Hollar, Retired Judge, Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

Mrs. Alma Plaskett-Christensen, Retired Asst. Court Administrator, Territorial (Superior) Court of the Virgin Islands

BLOCK II

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Bill No. [35-0251](#) An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 16, section 274 relating to the changing of the name of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission to the Virgin Islands Taxicab and Limousine Commission and giving oversight authority to the Virgin Islands Taxicab and Limousine Commission over limousine services operators, and for other related purposes.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Vernice Gumbs, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission

Honorable H. Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

Mr. Chris Watson, CEO, The Tropical Adventure Group

Mr. Willis Pinney, President, Tripple A. Taxi

Mr. Kerry Harrigan, President, Best Taxi

Mr. Dihony LaLanne, President, St. Thomas Taxi

Mr. Lawrence Ramdhansingh, President, Virgin Islands Taxi Association

Mrs. Elizabeth Hansen Watley, Interim Chair, Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission Board

Mr. Christopher Elizee, Owner, Chris' Limousine Service

Mr. Francis Arthur, President, St. Croix Taxicab Association

Mr. Perry Trotman, CEO, Presidential Limousine

Mr. Mervin Smith, President, East End Taxicab Association

Mr. Shawn Claxton, President, St. John Taxi

LUNCH **1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

BLOCK III **2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

Bill No. [35-0231](#) An Act amending Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, Chapter 32, subchapter I, section 225c, relating to permit requirements for vehicles brought into the territory, to exempt authorized dealers from the permit requirements but require them to present a bill of lading

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Barbara Jackson-McIntosh, Director, V.I. Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Mr. Clifford Bowsky, Owner, Bowsky Auto Sales & Car Rental

Mr. Justin Workman, Director of Operations, Drive Green V.I

Ms. Denise Hannah, Executive GM, Metro Motors V.I.

BLOCK IV **3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Bill No. [35-0285](#) An Act honoring and commending Bryan “Benny-Demus” Boulai for his outstanding achievements in the music and entertainment industries and for his contributions to the Virgin Islands community, awarding him The Official Key to the Virgin Islands and appropriating \$10,000 annually to The DEMUS Foundation.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Kimika Woods, Acting Director, Office of Management & Budget

Honorable Calvert White, Commissioner, Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation

Honorable Kevin McCurdy, Commissioner, Department of Finance

Mr. Jose “Tony” Rosario, Resident

Mr. Theron Thomas, Resident

Mr. Sheldon Turnbull, Resident

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.**

**Committee on Budget,
Appropriations and Finance
9:00 A.M.
Earle B. Otley Legislative Hall**

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER**

**Committee on Rules and Judiciary
9:30 A.M.
Earle B. Otley Legislative Hall**

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27, 2024**

**PRESIDENT: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN**

**Regular Session
10:00 A.M.
Earle B. Otley Legislative Hall**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MARISE C. JAMES**

**Committee on Housing, Transportation
and Telecommunications**

9:00 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

BLOCK I

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Update and discussion on the overall operational, fiscal, and human resources picture of the Virgin Islands Housing Authority; the outlook for the supply and demand for affordable housing in the territory; the status of the Housing Choice Voucher Program; the status of public housing communities, and of renovation and replacement projects; the status of senior housing; and the status of resident empowerment programs.

Invited Testifier:

Dwayne Alexander, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Authority

BLOCK II

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

Update and discussion on all issues regarding housing and housing stability that are impacted by the non-profit housing assistance programs. The current extent of housing instability; the operational and financial status of organizations providing services to persons suffering housing instability; and the extent and nature of interaction and collaboration between non-profits and government agencies, and suggestions for improvement.

Invited Testifiers:

Andrea Shillingford, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands

Dan Derima, Executive Director, Meeting the Needs of the Community

Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Board Secretary, Virgin Islands Continuum of Care

Jessica Whyte, Founder, The St. Clair Institute

Honorable Averil George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services

LUNCH

1:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

BLOCK III

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Update on the status of the property insurance market, as well as any recommendations to mitigate the situation, as we continue to examine issues of affordable housing and homeownership.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Tregenza Roach, Esq., Lt. Governor of the VI, Lt. Governor's Office

Sandra Harty, President, V.I. Insurance Association

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER**

**Committee on Rules and Judiciary
TOWN HALL MEETING
4:00 P.M.
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 01, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.**

**Committee on Budget,
Appropriations and Finance
10:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 02, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR RAY FONSECA
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS**

**Committee on Health,
Hospitals and Human Services
10:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall St. Thomas.

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

The Committee will receive testimony on the services offered by the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence to further evaluate their request for public support.

Invited Testifier:

Dr. Julia Sheen DrPH, MPH, Interim Executive Director, Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence

BLOCK II

11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Bill No. [35-0289](#) An Act amending title 27 of the Virgin Islands Code by raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 years of age.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Justa “Tita” Encarnacion, Commissioner, Department of Health

Honorable Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs

LUNCH

12:45 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.

BLOCK III**1:46 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

Bill No. [35-0254](#) An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code by adding a chapter 21A establishing the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Justa “Tita” Encarnacion, Commissioner, Department of Health

Honorable Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs

BLOCK IV**3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

The Committee will receive an update on the extent to which the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute will provide comprehensive cancer diagnosis and care once operations are restored.

Invited Testifier:

Tina Comissiong, Esq., MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Schneider Regional Medical Center

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 03, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 04, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved