



SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance

Memorandum No. 26-047

To: Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance Members
The Honorable Marvin A. Blyden, Vice-Chairman
The Honorable Dwayne M. DeGraff
The Honorable Ray Fonseca
The Honorable Hubert L. Frederick
The Honorable Marise C. James
The Honorable Kurt A. Violet

From: The Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr. 
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance

Date: August 11, 2026

Re: August 20, 2026 Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance Meeting

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Thursday, August 20, 2026, 10:00 A.M. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas to receive testimony on the update of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Kevin G. McCurdy, Commissioner, VI Department of Finance
Mr. Julio Rhymer, Sr., Director, Office of Management and Budget
Mr. Joel A. Lee, Director, VI Bureau of Internal Revenue
Mr. Brent Leerdam, Tax Collector, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Mr. Ludence Romney, Tax Assessor, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Ms. Joss N. Springette, Esq., Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining
Ms. Cindy L. Richardson, Director, Division of Personnel
Ms. Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery
Haldane Davies, PhD, Director, VI Bureau of Economic Research

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will receive testimony on the following bills:

BLOCK II

1:00 P.M.

Bill No. 36-0111 An Act appropriating \$20,000,000 from the Settlement Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein; Darren K. Indyke, in his individual, capacity and in his capacity as the Co-Executor for the Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein and Administrator of The 1953 Trust; Richard D. Kahn, in his individual capacity and in his capacity as Co-Executor of the Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein and Administrator of The 1953 Trust; Plan D, LLC; Great St. James, LLC; Nautilus, Inc.; Hyperion Air, LLC; Popular, Inc.; Southern Trust Company, Inc.; Maple, Inc.; and Laurel, Inc. (collectively Defendants) to the Department

of Public Works for the design and construction of a nursing home on St. Croix and a nursing home on St. Thomas *Sponsored by Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff*

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Kevin G. McCurdy, Commissioner, VI Department of Finance

Mr. Julio Rhymer, Sr., Director, Office of Management and Budget

Bill No. 36-0308 An act appropriating the sum of \$150,000 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Education to conduct a biannual fixed asset inventory *Sponsored by Senator Kurt A. Vialet*

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, PhD, Commissioner, VI Department of Education

Mr. Julio Rhymer, Sr., Director, Office of Management and Budget

Bill No. 36-0334 An act appropriating \$20,000 from the Budget Stabilization Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Health for the repair and replacement of the air conditioning system serving the Maternal Child Health Unit and the Division of Children with Special Needs on St. Thomas *Sponsored by Senator Avery L. Lewis*

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Department of Health

Dr. Tai Hunte-Caesar, Chief Medical Officer, VI Department of Health

BLOCK III

Bill No. 36-0339 An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Eight One Subbase, LLC for Parcel Nos. 81A and 81B, Submarine Base, No. 6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas to develop a food court *Sponsored by Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor*

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, VI Department of Property and Procurement

Mr. Kwesi R. Howard, Sole Member, Eight One Subbase, LLC