



MONDAY,
MARCH 03, 2025
10:00 A.M.



EARLE B. OTTLEY
LEGISLATIVE HALL
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS



THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - **REVISED**

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Call to Order: Honorable Milton E. Potter
Senate President, 36th Legislature

Roll Call: Shenika Dowe-Serrano
Chief Journal Clerk

CONSIDERATION OF FLOOR AGENDA:

The 36th Legislature will convene in a Committee of the Whole to receive testimony on the following zoning requests:

BLOCK I

Bill No. 36-0033 An Act amending official Zoning Map STZ-9, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to rezone Remainder Parcel No. 19-1-2, Parcel No. 19-1-2-7 (Eastern portion), and Parcel No. 19-1-2-7 (Western portion), Estate Smith Bay, Nos. 1, 2, and 3 East End Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands from A-2 (Agricultural Zone) to B-3 (Business Scattered)

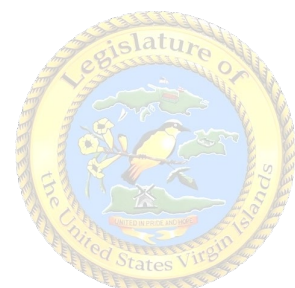
Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources
Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources
Candice Lindqvist-Wallace, Applicant

Bill No. 36-0034 An Act amending official Zoning Map STZ-9, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to rezone Parcel No. 19-1-2-4 Estate Smith Bay, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands from R-1 (Residential-Low Density) to B-3 (Business Scattered)

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources
Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources
Najocki Boyd, Applicant



BLOCK II

The Committee of the Whole will receive testimony on the economic pressures impacting the cost of living in the U.S. Virgin Islands

COST OF LIVING IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Part 1: CONSUMER GOODS

- Pricing structures of consumer goods
- Impact of freight and shipping costs
- Role of price controls and regulations by DLCA
- Perspectives from local businesses on economic challenge
- Recommendations to stabilize or reduce consumer goods prices

Invited Testifiers:

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

Wayne Biggs, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Authority

Dr. Mark Wenner, Economist

David Goldberg, Manager, The Fruit Bowl

Willie Hamed, Vice President, The Market

Ahed Daas, President, Food Center

Michael Espinosa, General Manager, Cost-U-Less

Roy Infante, General Manager, PriceSmart

Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Senior Director, Tropical Shipping

John Woods, President, STT/STJ Chamber of Commerce

Part 2: HOUSING & UTILITIES

- Rising costs of utilities
- Availability and affordability of housing
- Renewable energy initiatives and long-term savings

Invited Testifiers:

Eugene Jones, Jr., Executive Director, VI Housing Finance Authority

Kyle Fleming, Director, VI Energy Office

Karl Knight, Chief Executive Officer, VI Water & Power Authority

Geraldine Pitt, Chief Executive Office, VIYA

Daryl Griffith, Interim Executive Director, VI Waste Management Authority

The Committee of the Whole will reconvene on Tuesday, March 04, 2025 in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room.

