

Good Morning Senators, Staff, the viewing and listening public.,

My name is Daphne Jean-Marie. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this morning, with respect to Bill #36-0290. I have been a small business owner since 2015. Currently, my husband and I own a Beauty Salon and Supply store on St. Croix. However, as a result of the rising costs of doing business and a slower economy, we have decided to downsize.

I am requesting a use variance for our property at 104 Concordia, Frederiksted. We are now in a R-2 zone and I would like to be classified as B-2 or B-4, in order to operate a small hair salon from home. I would not have any employees, and the business would be strictly by appointment to limit traffic in the area. Our property has 2 houses. We would construct a small room dedicated to the hair salon, as an addition to one of the houses.

The area we are in also has a Gas Station and Daycare Center nearby. It seems however that the commercial zoning stopped just short of our neighborhood. In accordance with DPNR's requirements we have spoken to the neighbors and everyone supports us. This, in addition to the DPNR approval recommendation, lets us know that the request is reasonable.

I respectfully request that you vote favorably for Bill #36-0290 so that we may accomplish our goals. Your consideration will be most appreciated. I remain available to answer any questions.

Thank you.