



The Honorable
Donna A. Frett-Gregory
Liaison to Congress

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CAPITOL BUILDING, P.O. BOX 1690
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00804
Office: (340) 693-3686 • Fax: (340) 693-3642
Email: senatorfrett-gregory@legvi.org

CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Budget, Appropriations
and Finance

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Education
and Workforce Development

MEMBER
Committee on Economic Development
& Agriculture

Committee on Health, Hospitals and
Human Services

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE MARCH 19, 2024 REPORT

The 35th Legislature's Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance met on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The hearing convened at 10:16 a.m. The official agenda was as follows:

OFFICIAL AGENDA - REVISED

BLOCK I

The Committee will receive testimony from the V.I. Taxicab Commission on their financial operations.

Invited Testifier:

Ms. Vernice Gumbs
Executive Director
V.I. Taxicab Commission

Bill No. 35-0207 - An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part I, adding chapter 6a to create the Territorial Chronic Kidney Disease and Diabetes Registry

Invited Testifier:

Ms. Jenifer O'Neal
Director
Office of Management and Budget

BLOCK II

Bill No. 35-0246 - An Act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Pro Mar Services, Inc. for Parcels No.149-2, 159A and 159-1 Submarine Base, No. 6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and Parcel No. 159 Remainder, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Lisa M. Alejandro
Commissioner
Department of Property and Procurement

Mr. Jean Patrick Vivot
President
Pro Mar Services, Inc.

Bill No. 35-0245 - An Act approving the Lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of Department of Property and Procurement, and the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, for Plot No. B Lagoon Complex, Frederiksted Town, West End Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, consisting of two two-story buildings consisting collectively of 32,604 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.6366 U.S acre of improved land more-or-less, for the operation of a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief Program, and for other related purposes.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Lisa M. Alejandro
Commissioner
Department of Property and Procurement

Ms. Dayna Clendinen
Interim Executive Director
V.I. Housing Finance Authority

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members present at roll call:

Senator Marvin Blyden
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff
Senator Ray Fonseca
Senator Donna A Frett-Gregory
Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

Non-Committee Members present:

Senator Diane T. Capehart
Senator Kenneth L. Gittens
Senator Franklin D. Johnson
Senator Carla J. Joseph
Senator Milton E. Potter

COMMITTEE ACTION:

BLOCK I:

The Committee received testimony from the V.I. Taxicab Commission on their financial operations.

Testifier Present:

Ms. Vernice Gumbs
Director
V.I. Taxicab Commission

COMMITTEE ACTION: Senators requested through the Chair of the Committee to have the Executive Director of the V.I. Taxicab Commission submit the following information to the committee:

- The total taxi medallions issued territory wide, separated by island; total of unsold medallions and the total of new medallions issued.

- Listing of employees that have separated from the V.I. Taxicab Commission that are awaiting their annual leave payout and the amount due to each employee.
- The number of board meetings held in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and the total stipend paid to commission members in the time period.
- Report on all revenues collected in FY 2023, FY 2022, FY 2021, FY, 2020, FY 2019 and through the second quarter of FY 2024. Monthly revenue report for the same time period.

Bill No. 35-0207 - An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part I, adding chapter 6a to create the Territorial Chronic Kidney Disease and Diabetes Registry

Testifier Present:

Ms. Shanisa Emmanuel
Acting Associate Director of Budget Operations
Office of Management and Budget

COMMITTEE ACTION: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. moved Amendment No. 35-665 to Bill No. 35-0207. The motion was seconded by Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Dwayne M. DeGraff, Ray Fonseca and Javan E. James, Sr. Hearing no objection the motion was so ordered.

Senator Ray Fonseca moved to approve Bill No. 35-0207 as amended and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Dwayne M. DeGraff, Ray Fonseca and Javan E. James, Sr.

ROLL CALL:

Senator	Yea	Nay	Not Voting	Absent
Blyden, Marvin	X			
Carrion, Samuel				X
DeGraff, Dwayne M.	X			
Fonseca, Ray	X			
Frett-Gregory, Donna	X			
Francis, Jr., Novelle E.	X			
James, Sr., Javan E.	X			
TOTAL	6	0	0	1

BLOCK II:

Bill No. 35-0246 - An Act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Pro Mar Services, Inc. for Parcels No.149-2, 159A and 159-1 Submarine Base, No. 6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and Parcel No. 159 Remainder, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Testifiers Present:

Mr. Vincent Richards
Assistant Commissioner
Department of Property and Procurement

Mr. Jean Patrick Vivot
President
Pro Mar Services, Inc.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Bill No. 35-0246: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. made a motion to approve Bill No. 35-0246 and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Dwayne M. DeGraff, Ray Fonseca and Javan E. James, Sr.

ROLL CALL:

Senator	Yea	Nay	Not Voting	Absent
Blyden, Marvin	X			
Carrion, Samuel				X
DeGraff, Dwayne M.	X			
Fonseca, Ray	X			
Frett-Gregory, Donna	X			
Francis, Jr., Novelle E.	X			
James, Sr., Javan E.	X			
TOTAL	6	0	0	1

Bill No. 35-0245 - An Act approving the Lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of Department of Property and Procurement, and the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, for Plot No. B Lagoon Complex, Frederiksted Town, West End Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, consisting of two two-story buildings consisting collectively of 32,604 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.6366 U.S acre of improved land more-or-less, for the operation of a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief Program, and for other related purposes.

Testifiers Present:

Mr. Vincent Richards
Assistant Commissioner
Department of Property and Procurement

Valdez Shelford
Chief Financial Officer
VI Housing Finance Authority

Nichole Johnson
Manager of Rental Properties
Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority

Jason Browne
Construction Manager
Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Bill No. 35-0245: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. made a motion to approve Bill No. 35-0245 and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Dwayne M. DeGraff, Ray Fonseca and Javan E. James, Sr.

ROLL CALL:

Senator	Yea	Nay	Not Voting	Absent
Blyden, Marvin	X			
Carrion, Samuel				X

DeGraff, Dwayne M.	X			
Fonseca, Ray	X			
Frett-Gregory, Donna	X			
Francis, Jr., Novelle E.	X			
James, Sr., Javan E.	X			
TOTAL	6	0	0	1

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Meeting Clerks:

Ms. Joann Jno-Pierre

Ms. Christina Colbourne-Miller

Submitted by:

Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

Chair, Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance