

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

P.O. BOX 1690
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00802
(340) 712-2278



The Honorable
Angel Bolques, Jr.
Senator-At-Large
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CHAIRMAN
Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, & Parks

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture

MEMBER
Committee on Rules & Judiciary
Committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety
Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunication
Subcommittee on Energy & Infrastructure Development

August 29, 2023

Carol Burke
Chairwoman
175th Emancipation Commemoration Committee

Dear Chairwoman Burke,

I hope this letter finds you well. It was with great anticipation and enthusiasm that we approached and experienced the 175th Emancipation Celebration, a momentous occasion that holds deep significance for our territory. As we continue to embark on this historic journey, we would like to extend an invitation to you and the esteemed Members of the 175th Emancipation Committee to provide testimony before the Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports & Parks on Thursday, October 5th at 10:00am in the Fritz E. Lawaetz Legislative Chambers on St. Croix.

The purpose of this testimony is to gain valuable insights into the operations and endeavors of the 175th Emancipation Committee in their preparation and execution of the celebration on July 3, 2023, as well as to understand the Committee's plans moving forward. Your testimony will greatly assist our committee in understanding the efforts undertaken, achievements realized, and vision for the future.

Specifically, we kindly request that the 175th Emancipation Committee address the following areas during their testimony:

1. **Budget Expenses and Revenues:** Please provide a comprehensive breakdown of the budgetary aspects related to the 175th Emancipation Celebration. Highlight the allocation of funds, revenue sources, and any financial challenges faced. This information will aid our understanding of the financial management and sustainability of the event.
2. **Subcommittee Reports by Chairs:** We request that the Subcommittee Chairs present their respective reports, detailing the progress, challenges, and accomplishments within their respective areas of responsibility. These reports will provide us with a holistic view of the Committee's collaborative efforts.
3. **Plans Moving Forward:** Share your vision for the Committee's activities beyond the 175th Emancipation Celebration. Outline any upcoming projects, initiatives, or engagements that are part of the Committee's long-term objectives.

4. **Any Other Relevant Information:** We encourage the Committee to share any additional information that may be pertinent for the Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports & Parks to be aware of. This could include community engagement efforts, partnerships forged, and lessons learned throughout the planning process.

The insights you and the Committee members provide will guide us in our oversight responsibilities and contribute to the continued success of the Emancipation Celebration and its impact on our territory. To facilitate scheduling, I kindly request that you coordinate with my Chief of Staff, Ms. Hodge. Thank you for your commitment to honoring our history and culture through the 175th Emancipation Celebration. We look forward to your insightful testimony.

Warmest regards,



Angel Bolques Jr.

Senator At Large
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands