

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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

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

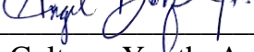
VICE-CHAIRMAN
Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks

The Honorable Marvin A. Blyden, Vice Chair
The Honorable Samuel Carrion
The Honorable Alma Francis Heyliger
The Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
The Honorable Franklin D. Johnson
The Honorable Milton E. Potter

FROM: Angel L. Bolques, Jr. 
Chairman, Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks

DATE: September 13, 2024

**RE: AGENDA | Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks Committee
Hearing—Friday, September 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM REVISED**

The Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks has scheduled a hearing for **Friday, September 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM** at the **Fritz E. Lawretz Legislative Hall on St. Croix** to receive testimony and updates regarding the current status of the Horseracing Industry of the Virgin Islands.

BLOCK I: **10:20AM-12:00 PM**

The committee will receive updates on the current status of horse racing in the St. Thomas and St. John District, with a particular focus on the ongoing efforts to finalize the construction plans for the Clinton E. Phipps Racetrack. The hearing will also address the progress of horse racing activities, the challenges faced by the industry, and the initiatives to enhance the sport. The discussion will explore how local stakeholders and authorities are working together to promote horse racing, improve facilities, and ensure regulatory compliance for the benefit of the Virgin Islands and the economy.

Additionally, the hearing will delve into updates on the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation progress to facilities, construction, projected timelines, and challenges.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Calvert White - Commissioner, VI Sports, Parks, and Recreation

Shaine Gaspard - Executive Vice President, Southland Gaming

Hugo Hodge, Jr. - Chairman, USVI Horseracing Commission

Clinton Hedrington - President, St. Thomas Horsemen Association

LUNCH

12:00 PM-12:30 PM

BLOCK II:

12:30 PM-5:00 PM

The committee will receive updates on the current status of horse racing in the St. Croix District, with a focus on the progress and challenges surrounding the construction of the Randall "Doc" James Racetrack. VIGL Operations, LLC will provide testimony and documentation as directed in the subpoena issued by the Committee. This will include the current status and timeline of racetrack construction, detailed financial expenditures, budget allocations, future projections, and compliance documentation, such as permits and regulatory approvals. Additional discussions will address community engagement efforts, economic impact analysis, future operational plans, procurement processes, and safety and security measures. Stakeholders will provide insights into their collaboration to enhance horse racing facilities and ensure the industry's growth and sustainability for the benefit of the Virgin Islands and the economy.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Calvert White - Commissioner, VI Sports, Parks, and Recreation

Jason Williams - General Manager, Racing Operations, VIGL Operations, LLC

Andrew Dubuque - CFO/Managing Partner, VIGL Operations, LLC

Elroy Bates, Jr. - President, Flamboyant Park Horsemen Association

Marvin Pickering - Chairman, Casino Commission Control

Carlton Dowe - Director, Virgin Islands Port Authority

Dodson James - Acting Chairman, USVI Horse racing Commission

Jean-Pierre Oriol - Commissioner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources

Lisa Alejandro - Commissioner, Department of Property & Procurement

Courtesy Copy:

Cc: All Senators

Cc: All Chiefs of Staff

Cc: All Divisions of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Cc: All Members of the Media