



# Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

CAPITOL BUILDING, P.O. 1690 ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00804

Tel. (340) 693-3515 Fax. (340) 693-3633 Email: senatorcarlajoseph@legvi.org Website: www.senatorcarlajoseph.com

THE HONORABLE  
**Carla J. Joseph**  
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY  
35TH LEGISLATURE OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

## CHAIR

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,  
and Consumer Protection

*Liaison to the United States Department of Interior and  
Office of Insular Affairs*

## MEMBER

Committee of the Whole

Committee on Rules and Judiciary


Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure, and Planning

Committee on Housing, Transportation, and Telecommunications

## Memorandum: 23-015

**TO:** Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, JD  
Executive Director  
35<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the V.I.

**FROM:** Carla Joseph   
Chair  
Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,  
and Consumer Protection

**DATE:** April 26, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Committee Report for Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Meeting

---

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection (GOVACP) meeting held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas.

Cc: All Senators  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Archive Division  
Journal Division

## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION APRIL 25, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection held its meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas. The Committee received testimony and considered the following bills:

- Bill No. 35-0016 – A Resolution honoring and commending the Board of Elections; the Supervisor of Elections, Caroline Fawkes, and the entire Virgin Islands Election System team for their tireless service and contributions to the Virgin Islands community and on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Election System of the Virgin Islands. This bill is sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Carla J. Joseph, Ray Fonseca, Novelle E. Francis, Jr., and Marise C. James,
- Bill No. 35-0027- An Act honoring and commending Mr. Myron Corbett posthumously for his many contributions to the youth of the Territory; renaming the basketball court located in Anna’s Retreat, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands as “The Myron Corbett Basketball Court”; making an appropriation to erect signage at the basketball court; and for other related purposes. This bill is sponsored by Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory.
- Bill No. 35-0062- A Resolution honoring and commending Gregory Hodge, b.k.a. DJ Avalanche for his outstanding contributions as a disk jockey, radio talk show host, and entertainer and presenting to him the Official Key to the Virgin Islands. This bill is sponsored by Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

Then, the Committee received testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Lottery.

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 10:04 a.m.

### **Committee Members Present**

Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair  
 Sen. Javan E. James, Sr., Vice-Chair  
 Sen. Samuel Carrion  
 Sen. Ray Fonseca  
 Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger  
 Sen. Milton E. Potter  
 Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens

### **Sergeant-At-Arms**

Ms. Khalisha Clarke  
 Ms. Tasha Forbes

### **Public Affairs/Media**

Ms. Diana Cruz  
 Ms. Chaunte Herbert  
 Mr. Jamal Potter  
 Mr. Barry Leerdam  
 Mr. Eustace Browne  
 Ms. Melissa Gustave

### **Non-Committee Members Present**

Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr.  
 Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
 Sen. Diane Capehart

### **Legislative Reporters**

Mrs. Vashti Berry  
 Mrs. Natanya Melchoir-Munoz

### **Clerk/Timekeeper**

Ms. Delekah Callwood

### **Supporting Staff**

Ms. Knysha Berkeley

### **Legal Counsel**

Attorney Amos Carty

In block one, Bill No. 35-0016 was introduced by Sen Angel L. Bolques, Jr. Ms. Claudette Georges, former Board member of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections, and Ms. Lydia Hendricks, Board Secretary of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections testified in support of the bill. Also, Ms. Lorna Thomas, former Board member of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections written testimony in support of the measure was read into the record. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes each of questioning. Sen. James made a motion to move Amendment No. 35-245 to Bill No 35-0016. The motion was seconded by Senator Carrion. Sen. James made a motion for Bill No. 35-0016 as amended to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Carrion and Potter. Voting in favor were Senators Carrion, Fonseca, James, Joseph and Potter. The motion was carried.

In block two of the meeting, Senator Carrion made a motion to remove Bill No. 35-0027 from today's agenda and place it on the Committee next meeting agenda and/or at the call of the Chair. The motion was seconded by Senators Fonseca and James. The motion was carried.

In block three of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0062 was introduced by Sen Javan E. James, Sr. Mr. Ian Turnbull, Director of the Division of Festivals, Ms. Tricia Sealey, and Mr. Rikky Baynes testified in support of the bill. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes each of questioning. Sen. James made a motion to move Amendment No. 35-285 to Bill No 35-0062. The motion was seconded by Senator Fonseca. The motion was carried. Senator James made a motion for Bill No 35-0062 as amended to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Fonseca and Potter. Voting in favor were Senators Fonseca, James, Joseph, and Potter. The motion was carried.

In the final block of the meeting, Executive Director Raymond Williams of the Virgin Islands Lottery testified on the operations to include but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current agency challenges, and plan of action to resolve challenges. Senators were allotted one (1) round of five (5) minutes. Executive Director Williams stated that the VI Lottery receives no funding from the central or federal government, the agency manages all their own financial resources but is still obligated to follow the central government procurement processes. Executive Williams also mentioned that they recently launched a new campaign, "I am V.I. Lottery, - V.I. Lottery is me! The new campaign is designed to instill a sense of national pride in our organization and community. VI Lottery currently employs 41 individuals at an annual salary of \$2,253,223.00 with 3 vacancies.

**During the meeting, the following request for additional information was made through the chair:**

- Senator Gittens asked VI Lottery for a breakdown of all the CDs in the various banks.

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection meeting at 4:55 p.m.