



Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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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: 23-025

TO: Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, JD
Executive Director
35th Legislature of the V.I.

FROM: The Honorable Carla J. Joseph 
Chair
Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection

DATE: August 24, 2023

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Wednesday, August 23, 2023 Meeting

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection (GOVACP) meeting held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas.

Cc: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
AUGUST 23, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection held its meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas. The Committee received testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current department challenges, and plan of action to resolve challenges, and considered the following bills:

- Bill No. 35-0014 - An Act posthumously honoring and commending Wayne “Facts Man” Adams for articulating and bringing events of historic significance to the people of the Virgin Islands, by naming the bridge at the Nadir intersection on the island of St. Thomas the Wayne “Facts Man” Adams Bridge. This bill is sponsored by Senators Alma Francis Heyliger and Marvin A. Blyden and co-sponsored by Senator Ray Fonseca, and
- Bill No. 35-0074 - An Act honoring and commending former Senator Almando “Rocky” Liburd for his lifetime of service to the people of the Virgin Islands especially St. John and renaming the North Shore Road on St. John “The Almando “Rocky” Liburd Highway. This bill is sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Marvin A. Blyden, and Carla J. Joseph.

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 10:01 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair
Sen. Ray Fonesca
Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger
Sen. Milton E. Potter
Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens

Committee Members Absent

Sen. Javan E. James, Sr., Vice-chair

Committee Members Excused

Sen. Samuel Carrion

Public Affairs/Media

Ms. Africah Harrigan
Mr. DeQuan Milliner
Ms. Chaunte Herbert
Mr. Jamal Potter
Mr. Barry Leerdam
Mr. Omari Hicks
Mr. Kashief Hamilton
Mr. Eustace Browne
Mr. Bernard Matthew
Mr. Alwyn Baptiste, Jr.
Ms. Melissa Gustave

Non-Committee Members Present

Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
Sen. Marise C. James

Legislative Reporters

Ms. Joanne Samuel
Ms. Vashti Berry

Sergeant-At-Arms

Ms. Shani Smith
Mr. Delvin Fleming

Clerk/Timekeeper

Ms. Delekeh Callwood

Supportive Staff

Ms. Knysha Berkeley
Ms. Cheryl Thompson

Legal Counsel

Attorney Nandi Sekou

In block one of the meeting, Ms. Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner Designee testified on the operations to include but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current department challenges, and plan of action to resolve challenges. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes and a second lighting round to ask a burning question. Commissioner Designee Alejandro stated that the Department of Property and Procurement has 85 active employees Ms. Alejandro also stated that over the past three (3) fiscal years, the Division of Procurement conducted 532 solicitations and executed 1,540 contracts totaling \$1,145,153,830.37. Commissioner Designee Alejandro also testified that vendors at the Vendors Plaza will be provided with an opportunity to give input relative to proposed rental fee increases as well as the location of the food and beverages component of the Vendors Plaza.

In block two of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0014 was introduced by Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger. Mr. Glen “Kwabena” Davis and Mr. Ulric Ferrari testified in support of the bill. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes each of questioning. Senator Francis Heyliger made a motion for Bill No. 35-0014 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senator Gittens and Fonseca. Voting in favor were Senators Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, Gittens, Joseph, and Potter.

In the final block of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0074 was introduced by Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr. Mr. Rudolph E. Krigger, Jr., and The Honorable Vargrave Richards, Former Lt. Governor testified in support of the bill. Dr. Margaret Sprauve and Dr. Malik Sekou, PhD., Professor at the University of the Virgin Islands testimonies were read into the record. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes each of questioning. Senator Potter made a motion for Bill No. 35-0074 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Francis Heyliger and Fonseca. Voting in favor were Senators Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, Gittens, Joseph, and Potter. The motion was carried.

During the meeting, a request for additional information was made through the chair. The information is as follows:

- Senator Marise C. James asked the Department of Property and Procurement for a list of properties in Christiansted and Frederiksted that are derelict.

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection meeting at 3:59 p.m.