



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

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VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXICAB COMMISSION

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Loretta Lloyd
Chairperson of the Board

Elizabeth Hansen Watley
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

Myrna S. George
Secretary of the Board

Vernice M. Gumbs
Acting Executive Director

December 12, 2023

The Honorable Carla J. Joseph, Chair
Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs
& Consumer Protection
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
St. Thomas, USVI 00831

Dear Senator Joseph,

I am in receipt of your communication to me, dated December 1, 2023, requesting the following Documents/information:

1. Status of promulgated rules and regulations of the Board as well as policies ratified by the board:

Please note that on February 11, 2010, the Virgin Islands Taxi Cab Commission (VITCC) prepared and sent the Rules and Regulations Handbook to Assistant Attorney General Richard Davis, Esq. as well as hand delivered the same to Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr. for promulgation. Seeing no evidence of such, the same was sent to the Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr. on November 2, 2023, by VITCC Director Vernice Gumbs. To date, the Board has received no feedback. I have attached the following:

- Letter to Assistant Attorney General Richard Davis, Esq. by then Executive Director Judith Wheatley, Director, 2/2010
- Rules and Regulations Handbook to be promulgated as approved by Mr. Ulric Pilgrim, Chairman of the Board in 2010
- Letter to Honorable Governor Bryan by Executive Director Vernice Gumbs advising of the Rules and Regulations Handbook and seeking promulgation on 11/3/2023.

2. Current agency challenges and plan of action to resolve challenges:

- The lack of technological infrastructure that would allow us to provide services to our customers in real time. **The Agency has received quotes from three (3) different companies and on the recommendation of Director Vernice Gumbs, the Board has**

approved Omni Systems LLC as the company to bring this to fruition. However, without funding, this will not be possible.

- Recruitment of Taxi Enforcement Officers –
- Administrative support staff needed –
 - a. Assistant Executive Director – St. Croix District
 - b. Fiscal/Human Resources Officer/Coordinator
 - c. Chief of Enforcement
 - d. Administrative Enforcement Coordinator
 - e. Taxi Inspectors/Enforcement Officers (**8 additional needed** – 4 on STT/STJ and 4 on STX)

VITCC is in dire need of employees in various areas, however, with the lack of funds, we are unable to hire. Since the submission of the FY2023-2024 Budget we have lost two (2) employees. We are now down to one Office employee on St. Croix, two (2) Officers on St. Thomas, one Collector on St. Thomas and the Executive Director on St. Thomas.

- **Lack of Quorum by the Board**

Email and verbal communication were had with Deputy Chief of Staff Keven Rodriguez, Policy Advisor to the Governor on Boards and Commission, Toya Malone. The Board has provided names of persons that are interested in serving to no avail. Mr. Malone requested a listing of the current and past Board members which was provided. Also, a conversation was had with Governor Bryan and an email was sent in reference to this. The Board needs its full complement of members, that being nine (9) as we continue to struggle to hold a quorum of five (5).

With the above information provided, I trust I have addressed your inquiry. However, if there is further concern, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

for Myrna S. George

Loretta Lloyd
Chairperson, VITCC

Cc: Elizabeth Hansen Watley – Vice Chair
Myrna S. George – Board Secretary
Vernice Gumbs – Executive Director, VITCC
Vincent George – Member
Franklin Brathwaite – Member
Camille Paris, Jr. – Member
Sweeny Toussaint, Jr. – Member
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