**Minutes of the Virgin Islands Taxi Cab Commission**

**December 1, 2021 @ 1:00p.m.**

**Members present: Chairperson Lloyd, Vice Chair Watley, Secretary George, Members Sweeny, George, Brathwaite and Paris.**

Chairperson Lloyd opened the meeting by welcoming all Members and requesting Secretary George to render a prayer. Lloyd stated that this meeting will be dealing with various committee formations and that we must remember when hiring persons, Background checks, 3 Character reference not related to the applicant (one from a prior employer), etc. must be included to properly vet the applicant.

**Outstanding Committees**:

**Budget** – to be Chaired by Chairperson Lloyd (there were no other volunteers)

**Enforcement** – Headed by Member Vincent Georges (Brathwaite, Watley and Sweeny will work on this Committee as well)

**Human Resources** – Headed by Vice Chair Watley (George and Lloyd will also work on that Committee)

**Rules and Regulations** – Headed by Member Sweeny (all members are requested to give input on this area) Title 3 and Title 20 must be your guide.

The Taxi Commission needs to hire a Contract Attorney to assist us with Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Standard Operating Procedures, etc.

Watley noted that we have no enforcement officers on St. Croix today and there was a ship in. Georges stated that the enforcement Officers on St. Thomas also

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reported sick, so we need to understand what is going on down there. After much discussion, Georges, George, and Lloyd stated that it appears there is a “Blue flu” going on at VITCC. Watley stated there has always been high absenteeism at VITCC. Member Sweeny stated lots of infractions has happened in the St. Thomas Office and now a lot was being uncovered so he believed the reason for the most recent absenteeism was just that. Member Georges stated that Ms. Melissa Smith, loaned employee from Government House, walked away from VITCC and stated she will not be returning. He stated we need to find out why that occurred. For the record, Deputy Chief Kevin Rodriguez sent a letter advising the Board that Ms. Smith will not be back. Secretary George stated that since we mentioned the ‘blue flu”, I think we should speak with all the employees and try to understand what is going on with each of the employees. Sweeny stated that he thought a strong message should be sent by hiring new officers.

Secretary George was asked the status of outstanding bills in ERP and George stated that ED Smith no longer communicates with her, so she has no idea.

**Hire a Deputy Director**: Will be on St. Thomas as the Director lives on St. Croix.

We should have a discussion with the Director as to who she recommends we hire (Administrative Coordinator or Deputy Director).

Sweeny reminded the Board that Director Smith must be invited to all meetings. Paris stated that he agreed with Member Sweeny, the Director should be invited to all meetings. Lloyd interjected and caused Paris to get upset as he wanted to speak, and he felt she was cutting him off. He called for her to respect him and she needed to respect him.

Special Assistant Eulatemae Joseph sent in her retirement letter yesterday, effective yesterday.

At 1:19 p.m., Member Georges had to leave the meeting.

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The Vice Chair requested that the Chairperson make an inquiry to find out if all employees can be exempt. She accepted.

Secretary George wanted to bring to the attention of the Board that there are several people on the taxi exam list that have never been called, herself included. People are taking exams all the time. She stated she discovered that this body should be vetting the list. She recommended we stop the classes, stop the taking of exams. Director Smith came before this body and told us there was no taxi list and I have since learned and seen the list. Secretary George also stated that ED Smith mentioned to her that a gentleman came in and offered her $500.00 to allow him to take the exam or give him the license. Member Sweeny is to oversee Rules and Regulations, and this needs to be done. The Minutes I found was December 11, 2014. Mr. Graham at that time made recommendations and they were adopted by the Board. It goes from the Committee to the full body. Based on those minutes, they voted on four (4) classes per year.

After 2 hours of much discussion, the meeting ended at 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna S. George

Secretary, VITCC