**Minutes of the Virgin Islands Taxicab**

**August 5, 2021**

**\*\*As stated in prior Minutes, Chairperson Lloyd would determine and send a message to the What’s App Chat as to the date that should be placed in Director Shane Benjamin’s termination letter. Mr. Benjamin was terminated on July 27, 2021.**

**\*\*Interviews for applications to be selected for the position of Executive Director of VITCC were held today, August 5, 2021. We interviewed Vernice Gumbs (present were Sweeney, Lloyd, George, Georges) and Mr. Percival (Lloyd, Sweeney, George, Georges and Wattley but very late). After Interviews were completed, the Board met.**

**\*\*Members in attendance: Chairperson Lloyd, Member Georges, Member Sweeney, Member Brathwaite, Secretary George. Vice Chair Watley came in to meeting during second Interview (Percival) and Member Paris was absent.**

 **There was quick conversation concerning the fact Mr. Percival, a BVI resident, did not have proper immigration status in place to work in the United States. Wattley further stated that she did not think he understood the laws of the Virgin Islands and the laws of the United States.**

Chairperson Lloyd asked if there were any other candidates that turned in a Resume of interest for the position and Secretary George said, “No, there are only to applicants and the deadline is August 5, 2021”. Member Sweeney then made a motion to cease accepting more applications as the Board has arrived at the deadline. Seconded by Secretary George. She then called for discussions. Vice Chair Wattley said she was no comfortable with that because it was not well

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published. She said that she did not see the advertisement for the opening anywhere on St. Croix. Chairperson Lloyd stated that she personally paid for the opening to be printed in the Daily News. She paid approximately $695.00 on her card. Again, Wattley stated that she is asking or one (1) more week and to be sure we list the opening with the Department of Labor as well. Secretary George said she cannot continue to work the way she has been working as she is the only person signing off on all the documents at Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission (VITCC) right now and still must do my duties and responsibilities at DLCA. This is not fair to her. It is also very expensive as DLCA is closed to to a Covid case but because VITCC is still open, I need to take the Barge, use my own money, and come down here to St. Thomas from St. John to sign off on documents. She stated she was glad to know the end was in sight as she knows she will not be reimbursed for any of the money she spent. George said, “this has been hard on me, very difficult on me juggling two jobs at the same time. I am the one who received all the phone calls pertaining to the VITCC on my personal phone. I am the one responding. I am the one holding down VITCC, void of a Director and I need this to end. I will not support this. This makes me work even harder”. Lloyd stated she agreed with Secretary George. She continued by saying that St. Croix Office had to be manned from St. Thomas as well. Thanks to Sweeney for going in some days and assisting and to Officer Dawson for helping Secretary George with paperwork going back and forth between the districts. The St. Croix Secretary is out sick.” Lloyd said she asked VIPD to allow Officer Dawson, who is assigned to the Covid Task Force, to remain in the Office so he can help. On St. Thomas she said Officer Mena continues to be a big help. Ms. Eulatemae Joseph went on sick leave as of July 28 and her leave states she is gone through August 23, 2021. This same situation happened with Ms. Eulatemae Joseph when Director Sarauw was terminated. Her sister Carol Joseph, the Cashier, she is out sick.”

Member Georges stated that after the Director left, a directive was sent to Ms. Eulatemae Joseph on the very same day, telling her to complete the tasks that were undone. He stated that Ms. Joseph then complained of her stomach bothering her and said she needed to leave, she felt sick. The next day the Board received the sick slip that Chairperson Lloyd just mentioned. He is of the opinion that she be

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using her sick leave and then leaving VITCC. He further stated that employee Tanya Paul is on National Guard assignment. He stated, “we need a director immediately, the Agency needs to continue”.

Vice Chair Wattley said she still thinks more time is needed. She saw no notices on St. Croix. Further, she stated she was not in favor of removing Benjamin at the time we did. She said “yes, he needed to go but we needed to have better planning in place as to who will fill in”. “It was a Board decision so now we have to work with it”, she further stated. Lloyd stated that the Board could not predict that Ms. Eulatemae Joseph would become sick as the Director was terminated. We could not predict that our St. Croix and St. Thomas employees would both have been sick at the same time, Lloyd further stated. Member Sweeney then withdrew his Motion and Wattley made a Motion to push the deadline back a week in order to give persons the opportunity to apply for the job and for the VITCC to contact Dept of Labor with the information as well. Lloyd advised that she tried several times and waited for return calls from DOL, to no avail.

Member Sweeney reminded the Members that there was a Motion on the floor.

Secretary George stated again, “this is not fair to me. I am the one doing this work. No one else is stepping up. On Friday I signed at least 50 sheets of paper, processing work for VITCC and then running upstairs to work at DLCA, amidst all the phone calls from both Agency employees and Agency customers. Again, it’s just too much. But if you all can really do this, go right ahead”. Sweeney then seconded the motion. Lloyd said all of us have a responsibility to keep VITCC afloat. She stated that it is very difficult, extremely difficult right now at VITCC. Wattley again said that it was not publicized in the St. Croix District. Though it was advertised in the Daily News, it did not reach the St. Croix District. Lloyd said it could have gone in the Avis Paper but someone else would have to put up the money, but no one did. We don’t know what funds VITCC has. She has been nominated to do her best at VITCC and she is doing her best. Vice Chair Wattley stated that she reached out to the Avis and they told her that they will work with her but they need to know approximately how long they would have to wait for the check. Lloyd told her at least three (3) weeks. Secretary George told her that right

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now, no one is authorized to be in the ERP for VITCC and she is trying all she could to be authorized, mainly, for payroll purposes as the employees’ paychecks need not be interrupted. “There is no surety, but we are pushing hard for this to happen. So, if I were to answer you Wattley, I would say not under 30 days”, Secretary George stated.

Member Sweeney said we have discussed Eulatemae Joseph in the Office 100 times and we know she has been a problem for many years. Let’s vote please.

Wattley stated that we should send the Job Posting to The Avis and then she will speak directly with the Owner of Avis. The committee agreed to open the job for one more week.

Secretary George stated that she spoke with an Immigration Officer friend who told her once Mr. Percival presented his paperwork which reflects his wife processing for him, the wife would be the sponsor not the Board. Secondly, I want to tell you all what I encountered at VITCC on Friday. This is something I started to speak with Member Sweeney about. A stack of files was given to me for my signature and I got to one of the files, I saw that four (4) items were missing. I asked Ms. Carol Joseph for the remaining items to complete the requirements and she said the customer will bring them, just sign it. Because of my BMV background, I know that medallions cannot be transferred from St. Croix to St. Thomas so easily, so I refused to sign i. I am telling you all this because she is a seasoned employee telling me to sign and then wait for the remaining items. No, I cannot do that. Make the file complete and then I will sign. This is my reason for physically being there. I cannot accept anyone signing for me. There is a lot that going on at VITCC that circumvents the own processes and policies, and these things are being done by the employees. Additionally, an individual recently told me that he witnessed a person going to VITCC with a very filled envelope. The employee came outside and took the envelope and there was a gust of wind and money blew out of the envelope. Members, we need to be careful. Very questionable activity is going on at VITCC. This agency will come under some very serious scrutiny. Thanks for allowing me to speak on this. Thanks for that information, Secretary George. She then asked about tomorrow’s hearing before the Legislature. Chairperson Lloyd stated its slated for 2:30pm.and that she needs

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to know which Members will be available. A link will be sent to each of the Members.

Member Georges immediately stated that Chairperson Lloyd’s appointment has expired, and we need to decide if she remains as the Chair. He brought the Motion for her to be reinstated as the Chair and it was seconded by Member Brathwaite. The decision was unanimous with Sweeny falling off the call and Paris absent.

There was no further discussion and the meeting ended after 2 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna George

Secretary, VITCC