**July 23, 2021 – VITCC Minutes:**

Present were: Loretta Lloyd, Chairperson

Vincent Georges, Member

Camille Paris, Member

Franklyn Brathwaite, Member

Elizabeth Wattley, Vice Chair

Myrna S. George, Secretary

Sweeney Toussaint, absent

At 11:15 a.m., the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission (VITCC) met via Zoom. Began with Prayer by Secretary Myrna immediately after the Welcome by the Chairperson. Excuse Member Sweeney because he is travelling. Chairperson sent all members the invite Letter to the Legislature from Senator Carla Joseph. She noted that we voted to have Benjamin terminated by a vote of: one voted No, one abstained, and four (4) voted to terminate him. Voting took place on the 25th of July. Would now like a date of actual termination so that we may issue the termination letter to him.

Secretary George will be on St. Thomas on Tuesday, 27th July and Georges volunteered to travel to VITCC to terminate Benjamin with her. Georges asked that this be kept silent for our own safety. No one had a problem with his request.

Get all keys for Office, vehicle and safe and be sure all files are intact. Wattley wanted to know if there was ever any documentation as to what the IG went with. There was no documentation. Chairperson Lloyd requested it of him several times, but it was never given to her by Benjamin. Wattley wanted to know if we can request the info of the Inspector General (IG) but the Chairperson said it was not a viable request as it is an investigation. As Stewards of the files, Wattley noted that we should request this information as we have oversight over those documents. Member Georges said he would request the info from Ms. Eulatemae Joseph.

We need to assign an acting Executive Director. Georges said he would recommend Ms. Joseph to act until we get another Director. Lloyd disagreed as she thinks she was a major contributor to the many issues the Agency has today. Wattley asked if there was another option. Lloyd said the other person would be the long-term employee of Officer Mena. Secretary George agrees with Lloyd. She cannot agree to have Joseph be in control. She believes Ms. Joseph has been an enabler. Wattley is also in agreement with having Mena placed in charge, temporarily. Georges

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agrees with all. All in favor of Mr. Mena acting position: All were in favor of Mr. Mena, except Paris. Wattley suggested that we not assign anyone in the interim since we will bring in a director in short order. All voted to agree to this: George, Georges, Lloyd, Paris, Brathwaite, Wattley all voted for Wattley’s suggestion.

Job Description was distributed and open for discussion. We currently have 2 applicants (Resumes were sent to all) and would like to begin interviews the week of August 2nd. Will submit to VI Source and Daily News. Wattley wanted to why only those two (2) outlets and was only asking if there was a reason why the Chairperson is only using those two outlets. She also wanted to know if the Director can come from any District, and all said yes so Wattley said it should be sent out to all the Media. George said let’s go with the Daily News, VI Source and the Avis. Lloyd said OK but noted it is expensive to do this. She asked all members to look at the Job Description and make any changes before it is sent out to the Media. Georges wanted to be sure the Board knows that the main Office is on St. Thomas and thus that Office must be manned.

Wattley said to send information to all Media. Lloyd wants the information sent to the printed media as soon as possible and the Board agreed to have the Executive Director’s job posted by July 30, 2021. She also noted that Member Georges is very anxious, and he corrected her by saying that he is not, he is just going by the law and the disrespect Mr. Benjamin has for the Board.

Interviews will be on August 4th and 5th and at Special Session, a selection will be made August 10th @10a.m. The letterhead needs to be updated as soon as Mr. Benjamin is removed. A Letter to the Department of Finance to have his name removed from ERP/STATS and to eliminate his name from BIT and add a new Director asap. A Member would also need to be available to meet and give keys to the new ED at his/her arrival.

At the end of the first week, the Chairperson would like the new ED to send a preliminary report to the Board. Georges suggested that as Benjamin is removed, the Special Assistant needs to provide all requested stuff that the Board has been asking for. All agreed. Chairperson asked for a Board Meeting one Month after the start date of the new Executive Director.

**Other Business:** Wattley wanted to know about the Medallions. Are there any Medallions being issued? She is curious as to who got Medallions. St. Croix is far behind when it comes to transportation and is wondering about the issuance of Medallions. Wattley noted that she does not want the ED burdened with old business. She states that Ms. Joseph needs to handle that.

Chairperson to go before the Legislature on August 6th at 2:30pm. George will be prepared to chronologically provide the Senate information on persons that were hired and why they were terminated.

We need to establish committees as the new ED is on board. Suggestions for Committees are: Budget, Human Resources Committee, Public Relations Committee. Wattley wants us to

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properly correct the Study Manual and prepare a new book for the Taxi Drivers. We also need to work on the Tariff.

We are again reminded that we must address the overpayment of Ms. Tanya Paul as Benjamin never responded to the information we requested. She was overpaid from May 1, 2020, to June 18, 2021. The board requested an update from Benjamin.

As of February 2020, through June 2021, the Chairperson has records of all payments made to the Members. Checks that were issued twice were returned to Finance by Member Georges and was deemed an error.

The Chairperson is again asking that ALL Board Members please review the documents that she sends out and make changes or comments before we get to the meetings which helps to eliminate time in the meeting. The meeting ended at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna S. George

Secretary, VITCC