



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

July 21, 2023:15 a.m.

Minutes of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission – June 30, 2023 @900a.m.

After waiting 15 minutes for a quorum of members the meeting officially began at 9:15 a.m..

Chairperson Lloyd called the meeting to order and requested a prayer by Secretary George. Chairperson then requested the Roll Call:

Present:

Member Sweeny
Member Georges
Member George
Member Brathwaite
Chairperson Lloyd

Executive Director- Vernice Gumbs

Absent:

Vice Chair Elizabeth Wattlely
Member Camille Paris, Jr.

Secretary George reported that there were 4 members present and 3 absent therefore without a Quorum of 5, there would be no voting on any items, but discussions can be had. To continue Chairperson Lloyd called for the Agenda of June 30th meeting to be read and accepted:

The Agenda was read by Secretary Myrna George and acceptance of the Agenda was moved to be accepted by Member Toussaint

Voting Yes were Members Vincent Georges, Sweeny Toussaint, Myrna George, Loretta Lloyd. And Franklyn Brathwaite (it was discovered that Member Brathwaite was in fact present but via conference phone, so the meeting continued with a Quorum.

Absent were: Elizabeth Watley and Camille Paris, Jr.

Madam Chair you have 5 yes and 2 absent. Motion to accept the agenda carries.

Chairperson Lloyd then called to have the Minutes of March 17, 2023, accepted as all members had the Minutes for quite a while. Hearing there were no changes from the members, a vote was called.

OLD BUSINESS

Members Georges, George, Toussaint, Brathwaite and Lloyd voted to accept the minutes as received without change. Members Watley and Paris were absent.

The Minutes of March 17, 2023 were accepted.

Following the Agenda, Chairperson Lloyd stated that the ByLaws were prepared for quite a while now by our Attorney Atim Abraham but the Resolution still needs to be signed. This request has been made several times and still a few Board Members have not signed the

Resolution, holding up the completion of this process. Please sign and return so that we can have this completed today, Board Chair stated.

Concerning ST. Croix issues as it pertains to Enforcement Officers, Chairperson Lloyd stated that in addition to there being an issue on St. Croix with the soon departure of Officer Dawson and the issue for Enforcement Officers at VITCC is territorial. Lloyd stated Executive Director Vernice Gumbs has been working diligently with OMB to have the proper funding in place to hire more Enforcement Officers. Member Sweeny Toussaint that the Board has known of this shortage for several years and he wanted to know where Director Gumbs is in this process. He has been receiving calls from St. Croix Taxi Drivers with complaints and there being no enforcement to assist them. He stated they have been calling VIPD but we are the agency tasked with this responsibility. Member Toussaint wanted to know how far along ED Gumbs is with her search for additional Officers. He asked, “Did we place an Ad in the papers”?

Gumbs stated that there are 4 vacant positions for Enforcement Officers that she is trying to fill but the challenge is VITCC offers the lowest salary for this position and thus VITCC is not competitive with VIPD or VIPA, for example. She stated that other agencies start at \$40,000.00 annually but VITCC is lower than that salary.

To assist ED Gumbs who was present on St. Croix with Member Georges, Georges gave clarity to what Gumbs was saying due to her laryngitis. He stated that VIPD should be called when there are issues as they are enforcement officers. Secretary George asked Gumbs to place her position in the chat so as not to try to speak as she was not being understood.

Chairperson Lloyd said, “we have mentioned this several times and as we complete the process and become more competitive, we should have more officers, this is a priority”.

Member Sweeny Toussaint moved that the VITCC have a public announcement, notifying the public of this challenge. There was not a second, thus the motion failed.

The 3rd item on the agenda was the advice of the meeting held with the Senators on March 31, 2023. Chairperson Lloyd said the report was just to give an overview of the Taxi Cab Commission. The body was advised of what we are working on such as the By-laws and the Resolution and the Standard Operating Procedures. Chairperson Lloyd then reported on the meeting held with Governor Bryan on May 25, 2023. She mentioned that Governor Bryan asked at to the number of Medallion Owners in the territory; he mentioned that Member terms were expired, and his consideration to revamp the Board. The Governor also requests that the BMV/VITCC Safari Policy be sent to him and that she anticipates hearing more from the Governor. She noted there are 7 active members, but only Franklyn Brathwaite's membership on the Board has not expired.

Concerning DigiCab, Lloyd stated she is waiting to hear what the Board has decided on the presentation given by Mr. Farrell of DigiCab. This presentation took place in January 2023. As it pertains to the RickShaw and Pedal Cab discussion, Lloyd read excerpts of the definition and proposal being brought forward by Senator Blyden and then told all present that she can send a copy to them if they would like further information.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director's Report was to be read by Secretary Myrna George due to Ms. Gumbs having laryngitis. This report was never completed because WAPA caused a power outage. The meeting ended after 34 minutes, due to power outage in the St. Thomas/ St. John District.

Next meeting will be held on July 21, 2023.