



Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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THE HONORABLE
Carla J. Joseph
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY
35TH LEGISLATURE OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Revised I

Memorandum: 23-018

CHAIR

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection

*Liaison to the United States Department of Interior and
Office of Insular Affairs*

MEMBER

Committee of the Whole

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure, and Planning

Committee on Housing, Transportation, and Telecommunications

TO: Members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs
and Consumer Protection
The Hon. Javan E. James, Sr., Vice-Chair
The Hon. Samuel Carrion
The Hon. Ray Fonseca
The Hon. Alma Francis Heyliger
The Hon. Kenneth L. Gittens
The Hon. Milton E. Potter

FROM: Carla J. Joseph 
Chair
Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection

DATE: May 24, 2023

RE: Agenda-Comm. on GOVACP meeting- Wednesday, May 31, 2023

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall in St. Thomas.** The purpose of this meeting is to receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission and to receive and consider the following legislative measures:

- Bill No. [35-0036](#) – An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 16, section 274, subsection (f), paragraph (11) to clarify the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director of the Taxicab Commission. This bill is sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Kenneth L. Gittens,
- Bill No. [35-0008](#) – An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 8a relating to the Office of Veterans Affairs to establish the Veterans Council under the Office of Veterans Affairs to serve as advisor to the Office of Veterans Affairs and as a liaison between the Office of Veterans Affairs and all private entities serving veterans in the Territory. This bill is sponsored by Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff,
- Bill No. [35-0033](#) – An Act honoring and commending Mr. Benburin “Benny” Stephens posthumously for his heroism in saving the lives of a mother and her children and to

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rename the Bovoni Road (Route No. 30), specifically from the entrance of the Abattoir to the entrance of the Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School, “The Benburin “Benny” Stephens Drive”. This bill is sponsored by Senators Ray Fonseca and Marvin A. Blyden, and

- Bill No. [35-0075](#)- An Act to designate the third Monday in February as Virgin Islands Governors Day. This bill is sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Marvin A. Blyden.

BLOCK I

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current department challenges, and plan of action to resolve challenges.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Vernice Gumbs, *Executive Director*
Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission

Ms. Loretta Lloyd, *Chairwoman*
Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission Board

BLOCK II

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

The Committee will receive testimony concerning Bill No. 35-0036 – An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 16, section 274, subsection (f), paragraph (11) to clarify the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director of the Taxicab Commission. This bill is sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Kenneth L. Gittens.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Vernice Gumbs, *Executive Director*
Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission

Ms. Loretta Lloyd, *Chairwoman*
Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission Board

Honorable Richard T. Evangelista, Esq., *Commissioner*
Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

The Honorable Janelle K. Sarauw
Former Senator

BLOCK III

12:30 PM –2:00PM

The Committee will receive testimony concerning Bill No. 35-0008 – An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 8a relating to the Office of Veterans Affairs to establish the Veterans Council under the Office of Veterans Affairs to serve as advisor to the Office of Veterans Affairs and as a liaison between the Office of Veterans Affairs and all private entities serving veterans in the Territory. This bill is sponsored by Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff.

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Patrick Farrell, *Director*
Office of Veterans Affairs

Ms. Erma Chase, *Executive Director*
Meeting the Needs of Our Community

Mrs. Andrea Shillingford, *Executive Director*
Catholic Charities of the V.I.

Ms. Hillis Benjamin, *Commander*
American Legion, Post 90

Invited Testifiers Cont'd.:

Mr. Secumdo Romano-Cruz, *Commander*
American Legion Post #102

Ms. Erma Chase, *Executive Director*
Meeting the Needs of Our Community

Major General Kodjo S. Knox-Limebacker, *Adjutant General*
V.I. National Guard

BLOCK IV**2:00 PM –3:30PM**

The Committee will receive testimony concerning Bill No. 35-0033 - An Act honoring and commending Mr. Benburin “Benny” Stephens posthumously for his heroism in saving the lives of a mother and her children and to rename the Bovoni Road (Route No. 30), specifically from the entrance of the Abattoir to the entrance of the Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School, “The Benburin” Benny” Stephens Drive”. This bill is sponsored by Senators Ray Fonseca and Marvin A. Blyden.

Invited Testifiers:

Mrs. Beverly Stephens-Samuel
Resident

Ms. Monife G. Stout
Resident

Mr. Ariel Brathwaite
Resident

Mr. Robert Chalwell
Resident

BLOCK V**3:30 PM –5:00PM**

The Committee will receive testimony concerning Bill No. 35-0075 - An Act to designate the third Monday in February as Virgin Islands Governors Day. This bill is sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Marvin A. Blyden.

Invited Testifiers:

The Honorable Shawn M. Malone
Former Senator

The Honorable Myron Jackson
Former Senator

The Honorable Vargrave Richards
Former Lt. Governor

The Honorable Stedman Hodge
Fmr. Sen. & State Chair of the Democratic Party of the V.I.

CC: All Senators
All Chiefs of Staff
All Divisions
Public Affairs
Media