



# Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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

## Revised III

### Memorandum: 23-020

#### 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 31, 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. Hillis Benjamin**, *Commander*  
American Legion, Post 90

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

**Honorable Gary A. Molloy**, *Commissioner*  
Department of Labor

**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