



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

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VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXICAB COMMISSION

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Acting Executive Director

**TESTIMONY OF
VERNIC M. GUMBS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXICAB COMMISSION
BILL NO. 35-0036**

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
MAY 31, 2023**

Pleasant, good day Honorable Carla Joseph, Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Veteran Affairs & Consumer Protection, members and non-members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs & Consumer Protection invited testifiers, the viewing and listening public. My name is Vernice M. Gumbs, Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission.

I have been invited to provide testimony on 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.

While I have shared the contents of the bill before us with our Board Members, the Board Chair will present testimony on the Boards' perspective on Bill NO. 35- 0036. The relationship between the Executive Director and the Board of Directors is one of the most important relationships in making the automobile-for-hire a success industry.

On the other hand, the relationship between the Executive Director and the Board of Directors requires regular communications and collaborations. Such communications and collaborations set an important precedent for management and staff. Collectively, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director represent a small, but powerful, leadership team. Either we will set the stage for respect and cooperation, or we set the stage for tension and dissonance among the ranks.

The Board's focus should be on good governance, which requires accountability. Accountability requires that all parties have a specific job description, and the organization outlines the duties that they expect individuals in each role to perform. Bill NO: 35-0036 brings clarity specifically to Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 16, section 274 subsection (f) paragraph (11) of the duties of as it pertains to the role of the Executive Director while the Board and its chair are largely responsible for oversight, risk management and strategic planning. The Executive Director and his/her staff are largely responsible for implementing the Board's policies and managing the day-to-day operations of the agency.

The relationship between the Board and the Executive Director is a work in progress. When it works well, the relationship grows and strengthens through shared challenges and experiences. Mutual trust, respect, and a common understanding of the agency's goals remains key to making this relationship successful.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating what is needed now more than ever is a strong Board comprised of qualified individuals who are focused and dedicated. They must have access to accurate and well-designed information, be able to establish meaningful policies and implement board dynamics that foster effective debates resulting in good decisions and actions. Indeed, strong boards of this type can fail if they do not address the spectrum of responsibilities they have regarding leadership and strategy. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that persons serving on Boards and Commissions be qualified and knowledgeable for the position which they were nominated to serve. Based on the afore-mentioned, I am in favor of Bill No. 35-0036.

Testimony of Vernice M. Gumbs, Executive Director, VITCC

Bill No. 35-0036

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I appreciate the opportunity afforded me to present testimony on the proposed legislation 35-0036.

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