



Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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

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

Memorandum: 23-029

TO: Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, JD
Executive Director
35th Legislature of the V.I.

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

DATE: September 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Tuesday, September 26, 2023 Meeting

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection (GOVACP) meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 in the
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix.

Cc: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection held its meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on Croix. The Committee received and considered the following bills:

- Bill No. 35-0102 - An Act honoring and commending Ralph A. deChabert, M.D. for outstanding contributions in the medical field to the people of the Virgin Islands and his many civic contributions to the community, especially to the island of St. Croix and to name the Labor and Delivery/Post Partum Unit “Maternity Services” at the Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center North in his honor. This bill is sponsored by Senator Marise C. James, Esq.
- Bill No. 35-0125 - An Act honoring and commending the late Police Lieutenant Melbourne Clarke posthumously for his dedication, service, and contributions to the Virgin Islands community in law enforcement by adding the name, “Police Lieutenant Melbourne Clarke Drive”, at Route 669 on the island of St. Croix. This bill is sponsored by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens.

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 1:31 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair
Sen. Javan E. James, Sr., Vice-Chair
Sen. Samuel Carrion
Sen. Ray Fonesca
Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger
Sen. Milton E. Potter
Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens

Public Affairs/Media

Mr. Omari Hicks
Mr. DeQuan Milliner
Ms. Chaunte Herbert
Mr. Kashief Hamilton
Mr. Barry Leerdam
Mr. Eustace Browne
Mr. Bernard Matthew
Mr. Alwyn Baptiste, Jr.
Mr. Alvin Burke, Jr.
Ms. Melissa Gustave
Ms. Africah Harrigan

Legal Counsel

Attorney LaVerne Mills-Williams

Non-Committee Members Present

Sen. Marise C. James, Esq.
Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

Legislative Reporters

Mrs. Nataya Melchoir-Munoz
Mrs. Nadine Coley-Williams

Sergeant-At-Arms

Ms. Sherleen Francis
Mr. David Francis
Mr. Delvin Fleming

Clerk/Timekeeper

Ms. Deleka Callwood

Supportive Staff

Elston Rhymer, Sr.

Protocol Officer

Ms. Myrna De-Altier-Pickard

In block one of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0102 was introduced by Sen. Marise C. James, Esq. Ms. Cora Christian, MD, Ms. Ivy Ashwood, RN, Mrs. Vivian Ebbesen-Fludd, MS, RN and Mr. Angelo K. Galiber, MD testified in support of the bill. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes each of questioning. Senator Gittens made a motion for Bill No. 35-0102 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators James, Sr., and Francis Heyliger. Voting in favor were Senators Carrion, Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, Gittens, James, Sr., Joseph, and Potter.

In the final block of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0125 was introduced by Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens. Mr. Uston Cornelius, Deputy Police Chief of the Virgin Islands Police Department and Mr. Ray Clarke testified in support of the bill. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes each of questioning. Senator Gittens made a motion for Bill No. 35-0125 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators James, Sr., and Francis Heyliger. Voting in favor were Senators Carrion, Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, Gittens, James, Sr., Joseph, and Potter. The motion was carried.

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection meeting at 4:46 p.m.