



Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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

Revised

Memorandum: 24-013

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: July 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Friday, June 28, 2024 Meeting

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection (GOVACP) meeting held on Friday, June 28, 2024 in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix.

Cc: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

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

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
JUNE 28, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection held its meeting on Friday, June 28, 2024, at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. The Committee received testimony and considered the following bill:

- Bill No. 35-0239- An Act honoring and commending Mrs. Claire Lorraine Brown Roker for her dedicated service to the Virgin Islands community by naming the visitors center at the Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, the “Claire L. Roker Visitors Center”. This bill is sponsored by Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Javan E. James, Sr., Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Donna A. Frett- Gregory,
- Bill No. 35-0195– A Resolution honoring and commending Mr. Willard John for his many contributions to the youth and the culture of the Virgin Islands. This bill is sponsored by Senator Marise C. James, and
- Bill No. 35-0242- A Resolution honoring and commending Miguel Santos, Jr., aka “DJ Poppy Pops” for his contributions in the field of music and in radio broadcasting of musical events and local social musical events and specifically contributing to the art of deejaying and the teaching of deejaying. This bill is sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Ray Fonseca.

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 10:27 a.m.

Committee Members Present

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

Office of the Executive Director

Mr. Charles Brown, Jr.
Ms. Myrna De-Altier-Pickard

Public Affairs/Media

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

Non-Committee Members Present

Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Sen. Diane T. Capehart
Sen. Franklin D. Johnson
Sen. Marise C. James
Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

Legislative Reporters

Ms. Nadine Williams
Ms. Joanne Samuel

Sergeant-At-Arms

Mr. Okang Dover
Ms. Shani Smith

Clerk/Timekeeper

Ms. Delekeh Callwood

Legal Counsel

Attorney Cynthia B. Moore

In block one of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0239 was introduced by Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr. The Honorable Donna Christian-Christensen, MD, Former Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress; Mr. Jimmy Warren, Jr.; Dr. Clema Lewis; Ms. Melody Rames; Mr. Rupert Ross, Jr.; Ms. Bridget Dawson; Mrs. Aimee Griles-Carino, Executive Director of Our Town Frederiksted, Inc.; Mr. Christopher Richardson; Mr. Jose Raul Carrillo; The Honorable Ronald Russell, Esq, Former Senate President; and Glendia Caines whose testimony was read unto the record testified in support of the bill. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes each of questioning. Senator Gittens made a motion for Bill No. 35-0239 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Carrion, James, and Fonseca. Voting in favor were Senators Carrion, Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, Gittens, James, Joseph, and Potter. The motion was carried.

In block two of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0195 was introduced by Sen. Marise C. James. Ms. Aminah Saleem; The honorable Samuel Sanes, St. Croix Administrator of the Government of the Virgin Islands; and Mr. Whitman Brown testified in support of the bill. The Honorable Vargrave Richards, Former Lt. Governor; Mr. Wallace Williams, Mr. Alscess Brown; and Mr. Carl Gotts's testimonies were read into the record in support of the bill. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes each of questioning. Senator Francis Heyliger made a motion for Bill No. 35-0230 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Fonseca and Potter. Voting in favor were Senators Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, Joseph, and Potter. The motion was carried.

In the final block of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0242 was introduced by Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr. Mr. Delvin D. Duggins, Sr., Mr. Melvin Forbes, Ms. Juanita Boneque, Pastor Dexter Skepple, Mr. Hector Acosta, and Ms. Maricela Santos whose testimony was read into the record in support of the bill. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes each of questioning. Senator Carrion made a motion for Bill No. 35-0242 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Gittens, Fonseca, James, and Francis-Heyliger. Voting in favor were Senators Carrion, Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, Gittens, James and Joseph. The motion was carried.

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection meeting at 5:06 p.m.