



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: 24-006

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: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Tuesday, March 26, 2024 Meeting

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection (GOVACP) meeting held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 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
MARCH 26, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection held its meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. The Committee received testimony and considered the following bill:

- Bill No. 35-0030– An Act honoring and commending Vaughn Benjamin posthumously for his contributions to reggae music in the Virgin Islands and the global communities; appropriating \$45,000 to the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation for the design and construction of the “Vaughn Benjamin Monument” and naming waterfront park west of the Marley Homes “The Vaughn ‘Akae Beka’ Memorial Park”. This bill is sponsored by Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Carla J. Joseph,

Then, the Committee will tour the Office of the Lieutenant Governor Facility in Christiansted, St. Croix

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 10:13 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair
Sen. Javan E. James, Sr., Vice Chair
Sen. Samuel Carrion
Sen. Ray Fonseca
Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger

Committee Members Excused

Sen. Milton E. Potter
Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens

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. Melissa Gustave

Non-Committee Members Present

Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr,

Legislative Reporters

Ms. Nataya Melchoir-Munoz

Sergeant-At-Arms

Ms. Ethni Edney
Mr. Edysmarie Felix
Mr. Bondieumaitre Dequan

Clerk/Timekeeper

Ms. Delelah Callwood

Office of the Executive Director

Ms. Myrna De- Altier- Pickard

Legal Counsel

Attorney Kathryn E. Hill

In block one of the meeting, Bill No. 35-0030 was introduced by Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr. Ms. Niani Benjamin, Mr. Phil Codrington, Mr. Dale Wathey, Mr. Bevan Smith, Jr., Mr. Raymond Armstrong, and Ms. Shenneth Canegata 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 Javan E. James, Sr. made a motion for Bill No. 35-0030 to be approved and forwarded to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Senators Carrion and Francis Heyliger. Voting in favor were Senators Carrion, Fonseca, Francis Heyliger, 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 12:27 p.m.