



AAA



TAXICAB & TOUR SERVICES OF THE CARIBBEAN, INC.

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May 17, 2024

Honorable Senator Carla Joseph
Chairperson
Committee on Government Operations
Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802

ATTN: Senator Carla Joseph

Good day members of the 35th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands. On behalf of the staff, drivers and management of AAA Taxicab & Tour Services of the Caribbean, Inc. we are happy to show our concern, as we address the reduction of our capacity for the 27 passenger safaris.

For example, I can remember as a child growing up on St. Thomas that the capacity of one of the largest ship that came to St. Thomas was the Queen Elizabeth 2 which carried between 1,777 to 1,892 passengers and 1,040 crew staff. The Cunard Countess that used to come into port every Friday had a capacity of 800-950 passengers and 350 crew staff and was one of the smaller cruise ships coming to the Virgin Islands.

Compared to the Icon of the Seas, which is presently the largest ship in the world at this time and can carry up to 7,600 passengers and a crew of 2,350, you can see the large number of passengers and crew staff that the cruise ships are now bringing to these islands.

Realistically, how can you as legislators even start to consider reducing our capability of carrying the number of passengers that we are presently able to carry, when the ships are already three times and more the passenger's capacity of what they use to be years ago. Also, a new cruise ship will be coming out soon that will hold even more passengers and crew staff than the Icon of the Seas.

Another thing regarding the Taxi business, each taxicab must have a medallion that goes with the vehicle that they are driving. Unlike the other vehicles for hire that gets just one license and can get as many vehicles that they want in their fleet under that one license. Some of these vehicles are just doing a shuttle from point A to point B in direct competition with the taxi companies who pay yearly for their business license for each vehicle.

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OFFICES LOCATED IN CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, CAPITOL OF U.S.V.I.
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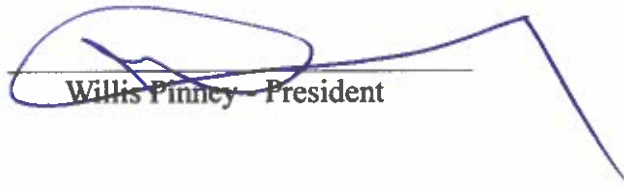
ATA
**TAXICAB & TOUR SERVICES
OF THE CARIBBEAN, INC.**



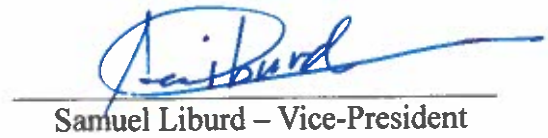
Page 2

Instead of creating legislation to create hardship on the taxi drivers, legislation should be introduced to have each vehicle for hire pay an annual fee like the taxicabs are mandated to do and these vehicles should be given a sticker to be placed on their windshield like a registration sticker, from the Taxicab and Transportation Commission since they would not be having specific license plates. This would help identify who they are, like a taxicab can be identified.

Presently the Taxicab Commission is greatly understaffed with office personnel and police officers. These fees can help with hiring staff and police officers to make the Taxicab Commission Office become more efficient and assist with their workload.



Willis Pinney – President



Samuel Liburd – Vice-President