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## Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 BILL NO. 35-0243

Honorable Senator Kenneth Gittens and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing Star Time Firearms, a local FFL Dealer to offer Testimony in support of Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety's Bill No. 35-0243, amending Title 23 of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 5 requiring licensed firearms holders to obtain permission from the US Virgin Islands Police commissioner before purchasing firearm components being mailed or shipped to the US Virgin Islands.

My name is Levi MacSheen, the owner of Star Time Firearms, a Federal Firearms Licensed Dealer with Store front locations in St. Thomas, VI, Atlanta, GA and Miami, FL. I have been involved in the firearms industry for over 10 years, accumulating extensive expertise within this sector. Furthermore, having spent my formative years in the US Virgin Islands, I have directly encountered both the advantages and disadvantages of firearms. This firsthand experience drives my primary objective: to impart knowledge on firearms safety to fellow members of my community.

I am testifying in favor of obtaining Police Commissioner's approval before allowing the purchase of firearm components being mailed and shipped to the US Virgin Islands. Having the commissioner involved in the approval process will provide an additional layer of oversight and accountability potentially helping identify and prevent suspicious or unlawful firearms transactions. This measure can help in crime prevention and advert illegal activities. Components should be shipped to an FFL Dealer after obtaining Commissioner's approval.

Passing Legislation requiring Police Commissioner's approval for firearm components is a crucial step towards promoting responsible firearm ownership and accountability and aligns with our efforts to mitigate the risk of firearms falling into the wrong hands. Star Time Firearms favorably supports the committee's efforts to develop a balanced approach that upholds our second amendment right while prioritizing community well-being and safety. Thank you for your time.

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