



November 12, 2024

VIA EMAIL TO: senatorgittens@legvi.org

Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens
Senator – Senate Majority Leader
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
3022 Estate Golden Rock
Christiansted, VI 00820

Dear Senator Gittens,

Herein, please find the Department of Tourism's testimony for the 35th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety has scheduled a hearing for **10:00 am, Tuesday, November 12, 2024, in the Earl B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas.**

The committee is requesting testimony on **BR23-0038** - An Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II by repealing and reenacting with amendments chapter 49 relating to abandoned and derelict motor vehicles. *Sponsored by Senator Donna Frett-Gregory.* This testimony will allow the Department of Tourism to provide insight to this august body.

Sincerely,

Joseph B. Boschulte
Commissioner, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism

Good day, Honorable Senators, Legislative Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen in the chamber, members of the media, and the viewing and listening audience.

Thank you for inviting our department to provide testimony on **BR23-0038** - An Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II by repealing and reenacting with amendments chapter 49 relating to abandoned and derelict motor vehicles, as it pertains to the subject matter to aid in discussions.

I. POSITION

The Department of Tourism stands ready to execute our mandate of marketing the US Virgin Islands as a marquis cruise and overnight travel destination through the promotion of culture, festivals, and all other supporting niche markets. Our department is not a lead agency in the execution of this of initiative. However, we understand the importance of sustaining, maintaining and improving our infrastructure is critical to our tourism product. The removal of derelict vehicles and the cleanup of abandoned buildings enhances the aesthetics of our islands for the community and visitors alike. I am pleased to provide testimony, and I am available to address any questions you may have.

Alani Henneman, Assistant Commissioner – Marketing
on behalf of Joseph B. Boschulte Commissioner of Tourism