



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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The Honorable
Marvin A. Blyden
Vice President

CHAIRMAN
Housing, Transportation &
Telecommunications

VICE CHAIR
Culture, Sports, Parks & Youth

MEMBER
Budget, Appropriations & Finance

Economic Development &
Agriculture

Health, Hospitals & Human
Services

Committee Report—Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunications

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications convened on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 10:10 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas to receive a testimony from all the Telecommunications providers within the territory due to the upsurge in consumer complaints, unresolved issues between providers and regulatory agencies, and the ongoing crisis of affordability.

Discussion topic included:

- An update on any ongoing network or other issues impacting the quality of service, along with actions plans to address any such matter.
- Status of present infrastructure projects and plans for future development, with a focus on planning and utilization of federal broadband funding.
- Plans for improving and expanding customer service, connections speeds and service coverage areas in the Virgin Islands.
- Issues and challenges regarding coordination between telecommunications providers and government agencies on issues such as permitting, access to poles and conduits, customer service issues, etc.
- Affordability of internet access in general, and for our territory’s students in particular, including utilization of the expanded Affordable Connectivity Program.

All invited testifiers attended the hearing with the exception of Mr. Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, USVI Department of Public Works. Commissioner Gabriel provided a written testimony that was read into the record.

Legislative Attendance

Committee Members Present	Non-Committee Members Present
Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Chair	Senator Franklin D. Johnson
Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.	Senator Novelle E. Francis
Senator Samuel Carrion	Senator Donna Frett-Gregory
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff	Senator Milton A. Potter
Senator Ray Fonseca	Senator Diane T. Capehart
Senator Marise C. James	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

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Senator Carla Joseph	Senator Alma Francis-Heyliger
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Invited Testifiers

The Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner, Department of Education	The Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works
The Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources	Ms. Jenifer O’Neal, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Mr. Andrew Smith, CEO, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority	Ms. Sandra Setorie, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Public Services Commission
Mr. Stephan Adams, CEO, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN)	Ms. Wanda Perez-Alvarez, Esq., Government Affairs Counsel, Liberty Mobile PR/VI
Ms. Geraldine Pitt, CEO, Viya, Inc.	Mr. Mark Hodge, Legal Counsel, T-Mobile, VI

The following individuals presented testimony:

- The Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner, Department of Education
- The Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources
- Ms. Jenifer O’Neal, Director, Office of Management and Budget
- Mr. Andrew Smith, CEO, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
- Ms. Sandra Setorie, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Public Services Commission
- Mr. Stephan Adams, CEO, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN)
- Ms. Wanda Perez-Alvarez, Esq., Government Affairs Counsel, Liberty Mobile PR/VI
- Ms. Geraldine Pitt, CEO, Viya, Inc.
- Mr. Mark Hodge, Legal Counsel, T-Mobile, VI

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Prepared by: 
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Legislative Researcher