

Good Day, Honorable Diane T. Capehart, Chairman of the Committee on Rules and the Judiciary, members on the committee of the Rules and Judiciary, other senators present, legislative staff, listening and viewing audience.

My name is Kasima I. Knight-Hodge, and I am honored to sit before you as one of the nominees to serve as a volunteer on the Virgin Islands Real Estate Commission. I offer this statement as a brief introduction to who I am and my vision for the Real Estate Commission.

I am a native U.S Virgin Islander, born on the beautiful island of St. Thomas. I am also the proud daughter of the late Wayne C. Knight, who was a great small engine mechanic, entrepreneur, and chauffeur for the Senate Presidents and Senators. My mother, Natalie M. Knight also an entrepreneur and owner of Mail Stop and a Mutual of Omaha Advisor.

I have been married to my loving husband, Tyrone Hodge, for 22 years. We have four beautiful children: Kalycia, a double major graduate of Northwestern University in Chicago, Kamir, a sophomore at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Kahlid, a senior in high school a dual sport athlete focusing on engineering and architecture, and Kahmil, a freshman in high school with interest in sports, art and design.

Blessed with the opportunity of both public and private education, I attended All Saints Cathedral School and graduated from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1999. Continuing my education at Clark Atlanta University, I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology in 2003 and later a Master's Degrees in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2007. I hold a Professional Standards Administrator Certification.

Stemming from a long line of entrepreneurs, who have served our community; like my parents, and my aunt who has owned and operated Celebrate and Party in Class for over 30 years, I launched a consulting business working in both the public and private sectors where I focused on operational improvements, technology integration, risk, and control strategies. With over 13 years

of basketball coaching and mentorship experience, I currently run an A.A.U travel basketball program and I am the women's head varsity coach at Westside Christian High School.

My interest in real estate was impressed upon me by my family. They instilled the importance of owning and preserving a part of the "Rock." My parents taught me that there is value in becoming an educated Virgin Islander, able to share our knowledge with our community and pour back into its growth. My passion is about empowering youth and introducing young Virgin Islanders to all facets in the real estate industry.

In 2006, I was hired as the Chief Executive Officer for the St. Thomas/St. John Board of Realtors where I provide professional management and day to day accounting operations for the associations. I have personally managed the association's transition to a virtual environment, resulting in a 40% reduction in their collective operating expenses.

I believe a strong real estate commission must be composed of diverse individuals that have a genuine commitment to the Virgin Islands community. The Virgin Islands Real Estate Commission should be the greatest defense and protector for our community and consumers while addressing the property issues of today and leading an equitable trail for the future. As a member of the Real Estate Commission, I will work to institute procedures and guidelines that protect the public and foster professional and ethical real estate agents. It is my goal to work with different departments within the government creating new workforce opportunities and programs that directly benefit the growth of Virgin Islanders in the field of Real Estate.

The Virgin Islands Real estate market is in high demand yet very little Virgin Islanders see it as an attainable occupation. With the personal relationships that real estate agents have within their communities, it is only fitting that the Commission work directly to invite, involve, and educate the youth of the Virgin Islands in this most rewarding profession.

Over the years, I have been uniquely positioned to interact with native Virgin Islanders attempting to enter the real estate industry, and consumers voicing concerns or looking for resolutions.

My vision for the Real Estate commission is to implement up-to-date policy and procedures for, property management, real estate consulting, real estate investors, title companies, closing processes, and buyers and sellers.

My leadership and administrative skills have equipped me with a unique perspective, and I am eager to learn all the full functionalities of the Real Estate Commission and provide securities to members of the public and community.

I would like to thank the Honorable Governor Albert Bryan and Lt. Governor Tregenza Roach for their confidence in this nomination. Thank you to the 34th Legislature for considering me for nomination and for the opportunity to serve as a volunteer on the Virgin Islands Real Estate Commission.