

# THE HONORABLE SENATOR AVERY L. LEWIS

Legislative Secretary

36<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



**Chair:** Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, Consumer Protection

**Vice Chair:** Committee on Education and Workforce Development

**Member:** Committee on Rules and Judiciary  
Committee on Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks  
Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety  
Committee of the Whole

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## REVISED AGENDA I

**TO:** All Members, Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection

**MEMBERS:** Senator Ray Fonseca  
Senator Alma Francis Heyliger  
Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
Senator Kenneth L. Gittens  
Senator Franklin D. Johnson  
Senator Carla J. Joseph

**FROM:** The Honorable Senator Avery L. Lewis 116  
36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands

**DATE:** February 5, 2026

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 9:00 AM** in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix., U.S. Virgin Islands to provide updates on the following agencies and consideration of the following bills:

### **BLOCK I: 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

The Committee will receive a comprehensive overview from charters being impacted by the BVI's newly implemented charter vessel licensing fees and all other information pertinent to the discussion, including but not limited to, the following:

- How these new charter fees are impacting their operations
- What challenges they are currently facing or anticipate in the near future
- What practical solutions, policy adjustments, or forms of support the Legislature can pursue to help stabilize and strengthen the marine economy across the Territory

### **INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Mr. Kennon Jones, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Professional Charter Association
- Mr. Steve Schlosser, Paradise Yacht Management
- Mr. Kelvin Bailey Jr., Virgin Islands Gamefish
- Jay Pennington, Waypoints Yacht Charters

### **BLOCK II: 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Department of Tourism including but not limited to enabling laws, current department challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- Plans for the upcoming carnival season
- What to expect from the Division of Festivals
- Update on the outcome of the 2025-2026 Crucian Festival

### **INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Mrs. Jennifer Matarangas-King, Commissioner, Department of Tourism

### **BLOCK III: 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

**Bill No. 36-0150:** An act honoring and commending Thelma Leona Petersen-Springer, posthumously, for her outstanding community service to the children and the people of the Virgin Islands *Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens*

### **INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Mr. Charles Nibbs, Community Activist
- Ms. Sheniqua Robinson, Frederiksted Majorette Former Twirler

### **BLOCK IV: 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**Bill No. 36-0225:** A resolution honoring and commending Sharon Maria Williams for her outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the fields of education and culinary arts *Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens*

### **INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Ms. Edna Thomas, Retired Educator
- Mr. John Abramson, Retired Civil Servant
- Mrs. Jennifer Matarangas-King, Commissioner, Department of Tourism
- Hon. Louis E. Petersen, Jr., PhD, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

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**Bill No. 36-0226:** A resolution honoring and commending Mrs. Janet Brow Phillips for her outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the fields of education and culinary arts to the Virgin Islands community *Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens*

## **INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Ms. Mona Barnes, Apostle
- Mr. Dennis Brow, Brother
- Mr. Victor Somme, III, Assistant Commissioner of Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Mrs. Jennifer Matarangas-King, Commissioner, Department of Tourism
- Hon. Louis E. Petersen, Jr., PhD, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

**Bill No. 36-0227:** A resolution honoring and commending the Armstrong Family, long-time owners of Armstrong Ice Cream for their exceptional contributions to the economic growth, cultural heritage, and development of the Virgin Islands *Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens*

## **INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Ms. Claire Roker, Retired Civil Servant
- Reverend Florence Petersen, Pastor
- Mrs. Jennifer Matarangas-King, Commissioner, Department of Tourism
- Hon. Louis E. Petersen, Jr., PhD, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

cc: All Senators  
All Chiefs of Staff  
All Divisions  
Public Affairs