

# 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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## AGENDA

**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:** May 19, 2025

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **Friday, May 30, 2025, at 9:30 AM** in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to provide updates on the following agencies:

**BLOCK I: 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current department challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- The growing trend of illegal taxi operators, operating large passenger vehicles while posing as legitimate taxi drivers or limousine operators;
- Unregulated operators that violate the law and pose a significant threat to public safety;
- The agency's staffing shortages; and
- Any other matters relative to the discussion of the status of the agency.

**INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Ms. Melissa Smith, Acting Executive Director Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission
  - Ms. Elizabeth Hansen Watley, Chairwoman, Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission Board
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**BLOCK II: 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Lottery including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, its current challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- The cybersecurity incident and the subsequent **data restoration process**; and
- Growth of the Virgin Islands Lottery System, among other topics.

**INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Mr. Raymond J. Williams, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Lottery
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**BLOCK III: 12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Office of Veterans Affairs including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, its current challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- Outcome of the efforts of the recent delegation's travels to Puerto Rico;
- Effects of President Donald Trump's Executive Orders on our territory; and
- Status of reimbursements due to local veterans, among other topics.

**INVITED TESTIFIER(S):**

- Mr. Patrick Farrell, Director, Virgin Islands Office of Veterans' Affairs

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