
Key To The City Dennis 'Pumpa' Liburd Testimony

September 22, 2025

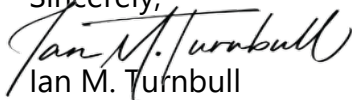
VIA EMAIL TO: Ms. LaStarr Watley, Office Manager: lwatley@legvi.org
The Honorable Avery L. Lewis
Legislative Secretary, 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Chair, Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection
Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room,
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00841

Re: Bill No. 36-0058 An Act honoring and commending Dennis "Pumpa" Lennox Leroy Liburd, Jr. for his many contributions to the Virgin Islands culture and music industry as a Soca artist by awarding him the Official key to the Territory and naming the main entrance of 6-Y Peters Rest Road, Christiansted, St. Croix in his honor.

Dear Senator Lewis:

Please find Ian Turnbull's testimony in honor of Dennis Pumpa Liburd herein for the meeting of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands' Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025 at the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room, St. Croix US Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,


Ian M. Turnbull

TESTIMONY SENATE HEARING 09/22

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

I am Ian Turnbull, Father, Husband, Marketing & Growth Strategist, and Cultural Curator here in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Today, we gather in celebration of one of our own—a son of the Virgin Islands, an artist, and an ambassador of culture—Dennis 'Pumpa' Liburd.

As a marketing specialist with over 15 years of experience in event management across the U.S. Virgin Islands and United States, I've had the privilege of working with many talented individuals — and Dennis 'Pumpa' Liburd is truly one of the standout artists globally and in our regional music scene.

In managing and marketing events that have featured Pumpa, I've witnessed firsthand the impact his presence has on audience engagement, event success, and promoting the territory. It's rare to find an artist who understands both the creative and professional sides of the industry — and Pumpa strikes that balance effortlessly.

Earning the Key to the City is more than a symbolic honor; it is a recognition of impact. Pumpa's journey reflects dedication, resilience, and a deep love for his community. Through his music, he has carried the voice and rhythm of the Virgin Islands onto global stages, reminding the world that our small islands have a mighty sound.

But beyond the hits and performances, Pumpa's influence runs deeper. He has inspired young people to pursue their passions, reminded us to take pride in our identity, and shown that success is possible without ever losing connection to home. His presence is a reminder that artistry and responsibility can go hand in hand.

The Key to the City is a statement that says: "You belong. You are valued. You have opened doors for others, and now we open every door to you." It is a gesture of gratitude for carrying our culture high and wide, and for doing so with authenticity, energy, and heart.

On behalf of this community, I extend congratulations to Pumpa. May this honor serve not as a conclusion, but as a spark for even greater achievements ahead. And may it inspire others to dream boldly, work tirelessly, and represent the Virgin Islands with the same pride and passion.

Today, we don't just honor an artist—we honor a legacy in motion.

Congratulations, PUMPA!