



September 19, 2025

Honorable Avery L. Lewis
Senator
Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building, P.O. Box 1690
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00804

**RE: Testimony on Bill No. 36-0121 – Renaming Peter Carl Limpricht Park in Honor of
the Ten Sleepless Knights**

Good morning, Honorable Avery L. Lewis, Chairperson of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection; Committee members; other Senators in attendance; and the listening and viewing audience. My name is Derek Gabriel, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill No. 36-0121, which proposes renaming the Peter Carl Limpricht Park in honor of the Ten Sleepless Knights (TSK), who have dedicated their lives to preserving and performing the official music of the Virgin Islands: quelbe.

Since their formation in 1970, TSK has been the leading custodian of quelbe and one of the territory's most influential cultural groups. Stanley Jacobs, the only surviving founding member, continues to lead the band and ensure that this traditional music is passed on to future generations. Despite the loss of members over time, TSK has remained steadfast in its mission to preserve Virgin Islands culture.

TSK holds a special place in the Crucian community, playing a vital role in the Crucian Christmas Festival and contributing to cultural preservation efforts such as the Quelbe Education Program, scholarships, and educational performances. This testimony is also near and dear to my heart because one of the members, Shelton Schulterbrandt, served the Department of Public Works for over 30 years before recently retiring. His service reflects the same dedication to community and legacy that TSK embodies, making this recognition even more meaningful.

Bill No. 36-0121 represents a fitting way to honor TSK's influence on our territory. While the Department of Public Works does not have jurisdiction over the park itself, we stand ready to support this initiative. Renaming the Peter Carl Limpricht Park to the TSK Park will

ensure that future generations understand the profound impact of quelbe music and the musicians who have kept it alive. However, the bill currently appropriates funding from the General Fund with an expiration date of September 30, 2025, marking the close of the fiscal year. I recommend extending this deadline to allow sufficient time to utilize those funds for the creation of the TSK Park signage.

To conclude, I invite the members of this Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection to pass Bill No. 36—0121 in honor of one of the oldest active bands in the territory: Ten Sleepless Knights. This bill pays homage to our official music of the Virgin Islands and the band members who have performed for more than five decades.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I stand ready for any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Gabriel', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Derek Gabriel
Commissioner