



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

HONORABLE CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.

Chair, Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety



Vice-Chair, Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunication
Member, Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning
Member, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture
Member, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The 36th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety will meet on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to consider the following official agenda.

OFFICIAL AGENDA

BLOCK I

The Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety will receive an update on the operations of the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services, including but not limited to:

- Staffing, staff safety, overtime and merger of the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Long-term plans for staffing recruitment and retention, improvement of facilities, and strategic initiatives
- Update on equipment purchases and replacement
- Conditions and readiness of fire and medical apparatus and vehicles

Invited Testifier(s):

Honorable Antonio Stevens

Director

V.I. Fire and Emergency Medical Services

BLOCK II

The Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety will receive an update on the operations of the V.I. Police Department to include but not limited to the following:

- Status of the federal consent decree.
- Changes in operational and investigative focus.
- Changes to staffing levels and patrol schedules.
- Status of the camera system.
- Current initiatives or special operations targeting recent crime trends.



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Invited Testifier(s):

*Honorable Mario Brooks
Commissioner
V.I. Police Department*

BLOCK III

Bill No. 36-0139 - An act amending title 31 Virgin Islands Code to assess civil liability for destruction or damage to government property through willful or negligent act (***Sponsored by: Senator Avery L. Lewis***)

Invited Testifiers:

*Honorable Mario Brooks
Commissioner
V.I. Police Department*

*Honorable Gordon Rhea, Esq.
V.I. Attorney General
V.I. Department of Justice*

*Honorable Lisa Alejandro
Commissioner
V.I. Department of Property and Procurement*

BLOCK IV:

Bill No. 36-0144 - An act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 113 to define and prohibit assault rifles, ban suppressors and silencers, and requiring safety training for licensed rifles and shotgun holders; prohibiting large-capacity magazines and preventing the illegal sales of firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition. (***Sponsored by: Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.***)

Invited Testifiers:

*Honorable Mario Brooks
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Police Department*

*Honorable Gordon Rhea, Esq.
Attorney General of the Virgin Islands
Virgin Islands Department of Justice*

*Mr. Ehren Henderson
Former Gun Shop Owner
St. Thomas*

*Mr. Kosei Ohno
Founder, VI Safe Gun Owners*



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*Mr. Luis Valdes
Florida State Director
Southeast Regional Director
Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands Director of
Outreach
Co-Chair Fuerza 2A
National Spokesman
Gun Owners of America*

*Mr. John Canegata
Owner, D&J's Shooting Gallery, LLC
St. Croix*

Bill No. 36-0151 - An act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code regarding the illegal possession of machine guns and machine gun conversion devices (**Sponsored by: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**)

Invited Testifiers:

*Honorable Mario Brooks
Commissioner
V.I. Police Department*

*Honorable Gordon Rhea, Esq.
V.I. Attorney General
V.I. Department of Justice*

*Mr. Moleto Smith
Director
V.I. Law Enforcement Planning Commission*

*Mr. Antonio Emanuel
Director
V.I. Office of Gun Violence Prevention*

*Mr. Luis Valdes
Florida State Director
Southeast Regional Director
Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands Director of
Outreach
Co-Chair Fuerza 2A
National Spokesman
Gun Owners of America*

cc: All Senators
Legislative Staff
Media