



# 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 36<sup>th</sup> 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