



*The Honorable*  
**Marvin A. Blyden**  
*Senator*

# Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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Telecommunications

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## Committee Report

### Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunications

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications convened on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 9:10 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas to receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Housing Authority, the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, and the Non-Profit Housing Assistance Programs: Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, Meeting the Needs of the Community, Inc. and VI Continuum of Care.

Discussion topics included:

- Overview on the overall operational, fiscal, and human resources status of the Virgin Islands Housing Authority.
- The outlook for the supply and demand for affordable housing in the territory.
- The status of the Housing Choice Voucher Program.
- The status of the Emergency Housing Vouchers.
- The status of public housing, renovations, and senior housing.
- The status of resident empowerment programs.
- Discussion on the current status of homeownership programs across the territory and the outlook for affordable housing and homeownership.
- The progress of home repair programs, the status of emergency housing initiatives managed by the VI Housing Finance Authority, and the status of programs aimed at addressing housing instability.
- Testimony from non-profits entities will address housing instability, the health of organizations supporting affected individuals, collaboration with government agencies, and suggestions for improvement.
- The session also included a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis of the housing landscape and efforts to provide solutions.


### Legislative Attendance

Committee Members Present	Non-Committee Members Present
Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Chair	Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.	Senator Novelle E. Francis
Senator Ray Fonseca	Senator Avery L. Lewis
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff	Senator Alma Francis-Heyliger
Senator Marise C. James	
Senator Carla Joseph	
Senator Kurt A. Violet (Absent-Excused)	

### Invited Testifiers

Dwayne Alexander, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Authority	Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Board Secretary, Virgin Islands Continuum of Care
Eugene Jones, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority	
Andrea Shillingford, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands	
Dan Derima, Executive Director, Meeting the Needs of the Community	

The Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Prepared by:   
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