

Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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THE HONORABLE

Carla J. Joseph

SENATOR

36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Liaison to the United States Department of Interior and Office of Insular Affairs

CHAIR

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

VICE CHAIR

Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks

MEMBER

Committee of the Whole

Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Committee on Housing, Transportation, and Telecommunications

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,

and Consumer Protection

Memorandum: 25-005

TO: Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, JD

Executive Director

36th Legislature of the V.I.

FROM: The Honorable Carla J. Joseph

Chair

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

DATE: March 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Thursday, March 27, 2025 Hearing

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Rules and Judiciary hearing held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix.

Cc: All Senators

Chief Legal Counsel Archive Division Journal Division

RULES AND JUDICIARY MARCH 27, 2025 COMMITTEE HEARING REPORT

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary held its hearing on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. The Committee considered the following Governor's Nominations and Bills:

- Mrs. Elizabeth Guadalupe-Perez Virgin Islands Real Estate Appraisers Board,
- Mrs. Trinity Granger- Austrie University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees,
- Bill No. 36-0028 An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Island and Tropical Marine, Inc., for Parcel No. 37-1 Estate Nadir, No. 2 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and a portion of unsurveyed Estate Nadir, No. 2. Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas. Sponsored by: Sen. Milton E. Potter By Request of the Governor,
- **Bill No. 36-0038** An Act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10, subchapter III, section 551, subsection (a) by increasing the limit for outstanding bonds for the Virgin Islands Port Authority from \$100 million to \$500 million. **Sponsored by: Sen. Milton E. Potter**, and
- Bill No. 36-0040 An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Charles M. Kim V.I. Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Virgin Islands Museum of Art, for a portion of Lot No. 48b Norre Gade, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Sponsored by: Sen. Milton E. Potter By Request of the Governor

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 10:04 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair

Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens, Vice Chair

Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger

Sen. Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.

Sen. Avery L. Lewis

Sen. Milton E. Potter

Office of the Executive Director

Mr. Charles Brown, Jr.

Ms. Myrna De-Altier-Pickard

Sergeant-At-Arms

Mr. David Johnson

Non-Committee Members Present

Sen. Marise C. James

Legislative Reporters

Ms. Nataya Melchoir-Munoz Mrs. Nadine Coley-Williams

Clerk/Timekeeper

Ms. Khadijah Hodge

Supporting Staff

Ms. Neta Christopher

Legal Counsel

Attorney Cynthia Moore

Public Affairs/Media

Mr. Omari Hicks

Mr. Kashief Hamilton

Ms. Africah Harrigan

Ms. Chaunte Herbert

Ms. Diana Cruz

Mr. Jamal Potter

Mr. Alwyn Baptiste, Jr.

Mr. Alvin Burke, Jr.

Mr. Eustace Browne

In block one of the meeting, Mrs. Elizabeth Guadalupe-Perez, Governor's Nominee for the Virgin Islands Real Estate Appraisers Board read her testimony into the record. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes each of questioning. Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. motioned that the nomination of Mrs. Elizabeth Guadalupe-Perez to the Virgin Islands Real Estate Appraisers Board be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Lewis, Bolques, Jr. and Potter. Voting in favor were Senators Carla Joseph, Bolques, Clifford Joseph, Lewis, and Potter. The motion was carried. (5 yea, 2 Absent).

In block two of the meeting, Mrs. Trinity Granger-Austrie, EIT, Governor's Nominee for the University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees read her testimony into the record. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes each of questioning. Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., motioned that the nomination of Mrs. Trinity Granger-Austrie, EIT to the University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Lewis, Francis Heyliger, Bolques and Gittens. Voting in favor were Senators Carla Joseph, Gittens, Francis Heyliger, Bolques, Clifford Joseph, Lewis, and Potter. The motion was carried. (7 yea)

In the final block of the meeting, **Bill Nos. 36-0028, 36-0038, and 36-0040** were introduced by Senator Milton E. Potter. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes each of debate time.

Senator Angel Bolques, Jr., made a motion for **Bill No. 36-0028** to be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senator Francis Heyliger. Voting in favor were Senators Carla Joseph, Gittens, Bolques, Francis Heyliger, Clifford Joseph, Lewis, and Potter. The motion was carried. (7 yea).

Senator Milton E. Potter made a motion for **Bill No. 36-0038** to be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Bolques and Lewis. Voting in favor were Senators Carla Joseph, Gittens, Bolques, Lewis, and Potter. The motion was carried. (5 yea, 2 nay).

Senator Avery L. Lewis made a motion for **Bill No. 36-0040** to be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Francis Heyliger, Bolques, and Lewis. Voting

in favor were Senators Carla Joseph, Bolques, Francis Heyliger, Clifford Joseph, Lewis, and Potter. The motion was carried. (6 yea, 1 nay).

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Rules and Judiciary hearing at 12:53 p.m.