

TESTIMONY

**Henry E. Schjang
Nominee to serve on the
Board of Directors of the
Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System
(WTJX-TV Channel 12)**

**Presented to:
The Honorable Senator Carla J. Joseph
Chair, Committee on Rules and Judiciary
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

September 10, 2026

Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System

Chairman Carla Joseph, members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, good morning, other members of the 36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands, family and friends, Good morning.

My name is **Henry E. Schjang**, and I am honored to appear before you today as the nominee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System.

First, I would like to thank Governor Albert Bryan Jr. for nominating me for this important position, and I thank the Honorable Chair Senator Carla Joseph and the members of the Rules Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today and to share my qualifications and commitment to public service.

I believe that my professional experience, educational background, and current service on public and financial governing bodies have prepared me to make a meaningful contribution to the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System.

I am a retired public service employee of the Government of the Virgin Islands with more than thirty years of experience in government service, regulatory compliance, auditing, financial analysis, investigations, hearings, licensing, and

operational oversight. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

During my professional career, I have had responsibility for reviewing financial information, evaluating compliance with laws and regulations, conducting audits and investigations, and providing information and recommendations to boards and commissions.

Prior to retirement from the Government of the Virgin Islands, I served as Special Assistant for Licensing and Compliance with the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission. In that position, I led the overall operations of issuing all licenses issued by the Casino Control Commission. Additionally, I reviewed and analyzed financial statements to assess fiscal health and identify financial trends. I also reviewed and audited gross revenue tax returns and worked closely with commissioners, management, legal counsel, and other professionals in carrying out the Commission's regulatory responsibilities.

I also served for many years as a Senior Casino Inspector, where I conducted audits, prepared financial analyses, reviewed internal controls, and helped ensure compliance with the laws and regulations governing casino operations in the Virgin Islands.

In addition to my professional experience, I am presently a member on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Island Federal Credit Union, and I serve as the Vice-Chairman of the St. Croix Horse Racing Commission.

These responsibilities have given me current, practical experience in governance, financial oversight, regulatory compliance, and organizational accountability.

As a member of the Board of Directors of a federally regulated credit union, I understand the importance of governance, reviewing financial information, monitoring the financial condition of an organization, establishing and reviewing policies, and exercising appropriate oversight. I understand that a board has a responsibility to ensure that an organization is being governed responsibly, that its financial resources are being properly monitored, and that management is operating in accordance with the organization's mission, policies, and applicable laws and regulations.

My service as Vice-Chairman of the St. Croix Horse Racing Commission has also strengthened my experience in serving on a public body responsible for governance, regulatory oversight, compliance, and decision-making.

These experiences have reinforced my belief that effective board service requires preparation, independence, accountability, and a willingness to ask thoughtful and, when necessary, difficult questions. I understand the important

distinction between the role of a governing board and the day-to-day responsibilities of management. However, I also understand that effective governance requires active financial and operational oversight.

In preparation for service to the Board of Directors, I have familiarized myself with Virgin Islands Code Title 30, Chapter 7, Section 203, the enabling legislation that established the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System and the important public responsibilities assigned to the System and its Board of Directors. If confirmed, I will continue to seek further understanding of the governing legislation, policies, financial information, and operational needs of the System so that I may carry out my responsibilities as a Board member in an informed and responsible manner.

I understand that the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System is currently facing a serious financial challenge. I recently had the opportunity to review the budget presentation made by the Chief Executive Officer before the Legislature's Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance. I understand the seriousness of the financial situation facing the System, particularly the loss of approximately \$1.3 million in funding as a result of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting no longer providing that financial support. This is a significant challenge and one that must receive serious attention of the Board.

I have also had the opportunity to discuss these financial challenges directly with the Chief Executive Officer of the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System. I was encouraged by our discussion and pleased that she acknowledged the critical importance of fundraising to the long-term sustainability of the organization. I was further encouraged to learn that WTJX is actively working to identify a professional fundraiser whose primary responsibility will be seeking new funding opportunities, expanding donor support, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing the organization's overall financial position. I believe this demonstrates that management recognizes the seriousness of the current financial challenges and is taking proactive and responsible steps to help secure the future of public broadcasting in the Virgin Islands.

The board, as part of its oversight responsibilities must work closely with the CEO and management to fully understand the organization's financial position and the impact of the loss of this funding. The Board must also carefully examine the available financial information, monitor expenditure and revenues, identify potential financial risks, explore responsible opportunities for additional funding and partnerships, and develop strategies that will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System.

At the same time, financial challenges must not cause us to lose sight of the importance of the mission of public broadcasting.

The Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System plays an important role in serving the people of the Virgin Islands. It provides educational programming, information, cultural programming, and a platform through which our history, culture, and voices can be preserved and shared.

As someone who has spent more than three decades serving the people of the Virgin Islands through government and public service, I understand the importance of institutions that serve and strengthen our community.

If confirmed, I will bring independence, professionalism, preparation, and a strong commitment to accountability to the Board. I will be prepared to review the information presented to me, ask questions when necessary, and work collaboratively with my fellow Board members, the CEO, management, employees, the Legislature, and other stakeholders.

I do not view this appointment simply as an opportunity to hold another position. I view it as a serious public responsibility.

The financial challenges currently facing the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System will require sound governance, responsible financial oversight, thoughtful planning, and collaboration. I believe that my more than thirty years of experience in public service, financial analysis, auditing, regulatory compliance, and current board and commission service will allow me to contribute positively during this important period for the organization.

I am honored to have been nominated to serve, and I respectfully ask for the favorable consideration of this honorable Committee.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.