

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands

## Office of the Senate President



*The Honorable*  
**Kenneth L. Gittens**  
*Senate President*

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Committee of the Whole

**COMMITTEE MEMBER:**  
Youth, Sports, Parks & Recreation  
Housing, Transportation &  
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**May 16, 2019**

Senator Marvin Blyden  
Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
Capitol Building  
St. Thomas  
Virgin Islands, 00804

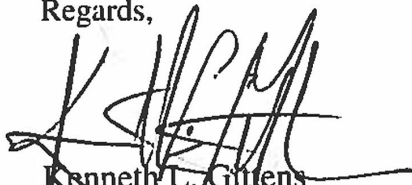
Dear Senator Blyden,

The events of Wednesday, May 15, 2019 indicate that several members of this body are seeking a change in its leadership and it is certainly their right to do so. However, what took place on the senate floor yesterday afternoon after I adjourned Session was in clear violation of the rules that govern the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature. As an elected official, I have sworn to uphold our laws. While I will do nothing to stand in the way of this Body electing a new President, Vice President and forming new committees, it must be done legally, properly and in the public view. We are the first branch of Government and, as lawmakers, can and must do better.

If our colleagues would like to go forward with this change, let's schedule a session as soon as is practical and proceed accordingly. I pledge to do all I can to assure a smooth transition if that is, indeed, the will of our membership. It has been an honor to serve as the President of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature and I am proud of what has been accomplished collectively these four months. Finally, I must clarify that contrary to reports made and subsequently published in the media, employees were asked to return to their workstations and not dismissed following session yesterday. It is this kind of confusion that makes it so necessary that we take the appropriate steps. The integrity of our institution must be protected.

May God continue to bless the United States Virgin Islands.

Regards,

  
Kenneth L. Gittens  
Senate President

Cc: Members of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
Media