



The Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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*The Honorable
Neville A. James
Senate President, 31st Legislature*

CHAIRMAN
Committee of the Whole
MEMBER
*Committee on Government Services,
Consumer & Veterans's Affairs*
MEMBER
*Committee on Housing, Public Works
& Waste Management*
MEMBER
Committee on Rules & Judiciary
MEMBER
*Committee on Economic Development,
Agriculture & Planning*

August 22, 2015

The Honorable Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor
United States Virgin Islands
Government House
21-22 Kongens Gade
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Dear Governor Mapp:

Greetings on behalf of the 31st Legislature and I hope all is well with you and yours. First and foremost, thank you very much for taking action on the legislations adopted by this body on July 30, 2015 and the institution appreciates your advice in recognizing errors that were made on our part in transmitting the bills to your office. In the instances where the errors were those of a technical nature, I appreciate you recognizing in your capacity as Governor, the right to exercise "form" changes necessary pursuant to Title I section 202 of Virgin Islands Code. The legislature will address all of your concerns as it relates to the corrections and your vetoes in the near future.

On another topic Governor, I want to address the transmittal letters that were sent to my office on or around 5:00 PM, Friday, August 14, 2015. Despite receiving them at the late hour, during the week I delved into the contents of the letters and the legislations, and have found an area of concern that I would like to address, specifically as it relates to your request to increase the spending authorization and the scope of authorization in Act. No. 7453, Section 2(B).

I deeply appreciate that you have addressed the critical shortages of vehicles for the essential emergency sectors of our government. It is crucial that we provide the management and staff of these agencies all the support they need so they can do their jobs to the best of their ability and keep the community safe. Regulatory compliance with the collective bargaining agreement with Virgin Islands Police Department is also of utmost importance and the proper security and transportation of prisoners is an area of concern that the legislature intends to address. In addition, your dedication to providing safe and up-to-date facilities for our Territories youth is also encouraging.

However, in regards to the \$350,000 which would be appropriated for the purchase of ceremonial/official vehicles, I would kindly ask that you consider removing this particular request until the Legislature can responsibly appropriate the funds to support this measure. Furthermore,

based on testimony given to the Committee on Finance on July 8, 2015 during the Office of the Governor Budget Hearing, Nellie C. Varlack, Director of Business and Administration stated on record, that your office has allocated \$120,000 for the purchase for limousines/ceremonial vehicles for each district under the Capital Outlay section of the budget report.

This allocation, if the budget is approved, should prove sufficient until the Legislature can identify monies to properly finance the request in question, unless there has been an event or occurrence between July 8, 2015 and August 14, 2015. It has not been made clear by the Administration, as to why the original allocation request in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget is not sufficient at this time to require funding for Government House limousines/ceremonial vehicles to increase by nearly three-fold.

Without a doubt, your efforts to provide resources for our law enforcement, fire and medical communities, in addition to upgrading our parks, is certainly a necessary step to improving the quality of life for our Territory's residents. I look forward to working with you on many more measures, such as these, that further this shared mission.

Sincerely,



Neville James
Senate President
31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands

cc: Honorable Osbert E. Potter, Lieutenant Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands
All Senators, 31st Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Iver Stridiron, Executive Director, 31st Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Nellon Bowry, Director, Office of Management and Budget