



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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Finance
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NEREIDA "NELLIE" RIVERA-O'REILLY
Senator

December 5, 2014

Via Hand-delivery, Facsimile & Email

Honorable Vincent Frazer, Esq.
Attorney General of the Virgin Islands
Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
34-38 Kronprindsens Gade
GERS Building, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: Recount

Dear Attorney Frazer:

This follows our conversation of this morning. Today's newspaper headlines are appalling. The Board of Elections decision to deny the media access to the recount area is clearly contrary to law. Pursuant to 18 VIC Section 629 (b), "...the recount shall be held within 10 days after the filing of the petition and shall be public". The board's decision is unconscionable and goes against the principles of transparency and fairness. The voters of this territory deserve an election process that complies with the law; anything else results in the disenfranchisement of voters. For years the Board of Elections has been plagued with problems. The last two elections were wrought with voter dissatisfaction, mistrust and disregard for transparency and accountability.

Our election process should be one that inspires pride, not mistrust. The recount process must be public and must be done within the parameters stated in the law. The Virgin Islands election statute provides for the prosecution, fines and incarceration of anyone found in violation.

I call on you as the Attorney General of the territory to order the Board of Elections to immediately stop the recount until the issue of access to the public, including the media, is addressed and resolved. The taxpayers of this territory are bearing the cost of the recount and are also likely to bear the cost of the impending litigation resulting from recent events.

I urge your intervention in this matter in order to restore faith and confidence in our election process.

Regards,

Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly

Cc: Media