

## Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks and Recreation Receives Update on Various Items

Date : March 29, 2019



St. Croix, USVI--Members of the Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks and Recreation, chaired by Senator Javan E. James, Sr. met on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the Capitol Building on St. Thomas to receive an update status from several Government and non-government agencies.

The committee first heard from, Labor Commissioner nominee, Gary Molloy along with his team, who gave an overview of the Labor Youth Program, by focusing specifically on plans for the Youth and Summer Programs. The committee learned that there are approximately 598 summer jobs for the youth throughout the Territory.

Having a background in education, Commissioner Nominee Molloy hopes to collaborate with Department of Education by visiting schools and informing students of the programs that are offered. Commissioner Nominee Molloy further indicated that statically service positions like

Administration, Accounting, and IT positions are the jobs that are much needed to be filled along with hospitality and carpentry areas.

The Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation Acting Commissioner Calvert White, focused on the recovery efforts due to the destruction sustained during the 2017 storms. White said that there is a need for reconstruction which may probably exceed \$20,000,000.00. The Acting Commissioner also informed the committee that damages were extended to all islands and it is the department's intent to do a thorough upgrade territory wide.

VIGL Operations Manager, Jason Williams discussed the Agreement between the VIGL and the Government of the Virgin Islands regarding their obligation to commit \$27 million for the design and reconstruction of both race tracks; Williams further indicated in his testimony that he received a permit in December 2018 for the St. Thomas racetrack and a few others earlier this month.

St. Croix Horsemen Association told committee members about their challenges that they are faced with regarding their horses having no running surface that is suitable for the horses to exercise.

St. Thomas/St. John Horsemen Association updated the committee on the improvements to the running surface and it is their hope that they would have approval for the temporary racing schedule for 2019.

The Commission for Horse Racing were also invited but was unable to attend; however, another hearing will be set in April 2019 during which the committee will seek further clarity on certain issues surrounding the sport of horse racing.

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