

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

06/02/2022-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

04/20/2022-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 34-0220

Thirty-Fourth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 18, 2022

A Resolution honoring and commending the Virgin Islands Agriculture and Food Fair Board of Directors, the University of the Virgin Islands, and the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture for 50 years of diligence in coordinating, promoting, and hosting the Virgin Islands Agriculture and Food Fair, known as “Agrifest”

PROPOSED BY: Senators Javan E. James, Sr., and Franklin D. Johnson

1 **WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Agricultural and Food Fair known as St. Croix’s Agrifest is an
2 annual agricultural and food fair displaying locally produced agricultural products, livestock,
3 arts and crafts, music, and local cuisine;

4 **WHEREAS**, the Agriculture and Food Fair is primarily sponsored by the Virgin Islands
5 Department of Agriculture and the University of the Virgin Islands;

6 **WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism has been a major sponsor of the
7 St. Croix Agriculture and Food Fair dating back to Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull’s
8 administration;

9 **WHEREAS**, the agricultural fairs were initially held annually in February, coinciding
10 with “Crop Season,” or the harvesting of sugar cane on St. Croix;

1 **WHEREAS**, the agricultural fairs began when Estate Anna’s Hope was established as the
2 Agricultural Experiment Station between either in 1910 or 1911. The fairs were celebrated and
3 held for years at Anna’s Hope Agricultural Experiment Station, with local farmers displaying
4 their produce;

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1971, the then Department of Agriculture Commissioner, the late
6 Rudolph Schulterbrandt, for whom the fairground is named, along with several other people,
7 started the agriculture fair after a few years reprieve. The 1971 fair was held at Estate Lower
8 Love;

9 **WHEREAS**, today, the fair is held annually over the Presidents’ Day weekend, attracting
10 thousands of people from all over the Caribbean region, the United States, mainland and around
11 the world. During the fair, hotel rooms and car rentals are booked solid;

12 **WHEREAS**, the fair is one of the Virgin Islands’ cultural, agricultural showcases of all
13 that St. Croix has to offer to the world;

14 **WHEREAS**, Agrifest is one of the largest local platforms for youth to display and
15 promote their artwork, education, and vocational skills. The 2012 Agrifest theme was “Youth
16 in Agriculture – Growing our Future”;

17 **WHEREAS**, each Agrifest has a theme to encourage involvement in agriculture. Past
18 themes include “Agriculture: Our Heritage and Hope for the Future!” in 2017, and in 2020,
19 “Agriculture: Trendy in 2020”;

20 **WHEREAS**, the Agriculture and Food Fair is now a three-day affair that brings in more
21 than 60,000 people at the fairgrounds, with millions more viewing online and via social media,
22 ensuring that the Virgin Islands remains relevant in the global agriculture conversation;

1 **WHEREAS**, it is only fitting to commend the Agriculture and Food Fair Board of
2 Directors, the University of the Virgin Islands, and the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture
3 upon the advent of its 50th Agriculture and Food Fair; Now, Therefore,

4 ***Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

5 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
6 Islands, honors and commends the Virgin Islands Agriculture and Food Fair Board of Directors,
7 the University of the Virgin Islands, and the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture for 50
8 years of diligence in coordinating, promoting, and hosting the Virgin Islands Agriculture and
9 Food Fair, known as “Agrifest”.

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BILL SUMMARY

11 The purpose of this Resolution is to honor and commend the Agriculture and Food Fair
12 Board of Directors, the University of the Virgin Islands, and the Virgin Islands Department of
13 Agriculture for 50 years of diligence in coordinating, promoting, and hosting the Virgin Islands
14 Agriculture and Food Fair, known as “Agrifest”.

15 **BR22-0951/March 3, 2022/YLT**