

July 22, 2024.

Amendment to Testimony.

Good afternoon Honorable Chairman of the Committee of the whole of the 35th legislature, and all other distinguished senators of this esteemed unicameral legislature.

My name is Roosevelt St. Clair David, President of Role Enterprises, Inc. D/B/A Best car rental of St. John, located at 294 Enighed/Contant, St. John. As you are aware, I was here just about a week ago presenting on a lease agreement between Role Enterprises, Inc. and the government of the Virgin Islands. I am very appreciative of the positive outcome thus far, both by the Finance and Rules committees.(Thank you members, all inclusive).

Today, it's about a different component; a zoning issue at the same location. This is a conspicuous indication of the challenges that businesses encounter consistently, either to get started or to survive. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, I will endeavor to persevere, and encourage Virgin Islanders to pool their resources, form partnerships and organizations, in order to become an integral part of the economy.

Mr. Chairman, in 1992, the august body of 19th legislature, in its wisdom, approved a lease for our rental agency to operate at 294 Enighed/Contant on St. John. The Honorable Governor at the time, Governor Alexander Farrelly, without equivocation, inked the measure affirmatively.

After operating at that particular venue for over three decades, surprisingly, I received correspondence from the the commissioner of Planning and natural Resources, Jean Pierre- Oriol, advising us that we were non compliant with respect to the zoning designation. I am paraphrasing the commisioner's missive to me.

Immediately, I reached out to the commissioner, and explained that the 19th legislature passed legislation, mandated our operation there, and the law had not been repealed. He requested a copy of that measure, which I unhesitatingly provided to him. Yet, I am here.

Mr. Chairman, Having placed the facts on the record, I wish to emphasize that I have absolutely no objection to the recommendation of accepting a use variance. I thank you Honorable chairman for your time. I am here to answer your question.