MEMORANDUM

TO: Kurell A. Hodge, Executive Director
34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CC: All Senators
Yvonne L. Tharpes, Esq. Deputy Chief Legal Counsel

FROM: Honorable Genevieve R. Whitaker, Chairwoman, Committee on Education and Workforce Development

DATE: March 29, 2021

RE: Education & Workforce Development Committee Hearing Report-March 15, 2021

The Committee on Education and Workforce Development report of the March 15, 2021 hearing submitted pursuant to Rule 605 of the Rules of the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

The Committee on Education and Workforce Development held its second hearing on Monday, March 15, 2021, at Frits Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. During this hearing, Senator Whitaker received testimony Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, Career & Technical Education Board, Center for Excellence in Leadership and Learning. The main objectives of the hearing were as follows:

- Unemployment Insurance
- Loss Wage Assistance Program
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program
- Workforce development
- Educational development
- Career and technical education
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Employment opportunities

Invited Testifiers:
Ms. Kimberley Causey Gomez MSW
Commissioner
VI Department of Human Services
The Honorable
Senator Genevieve R. Whitaker
Legislative Secretary
34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

The Legislature of the Virgin Islands

#3022 ESTATE GOLDEN ROCK
CHRISTIANSTED, ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS (U.S.) 00820
(340) 773-2424

CAPITOL BUILDING, P.O. BOX 1690
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS (U.S.) 00804
(340) 774-0880

CHAIRWOMAN
Committee on Education and Workforce Development

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications

Liaison to the U.S. Department of Interior & Office of Insular Affairs

MEMBER
Committee on Rules & Judiciary
Committee on Disaster Recovery and Infrastructure
SUBCOMMITTEE on Public Safety & Health

Dr. Michael Francois
Chairman
Career & Technical Education Board

Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras,
Director
University of the Virgin Islands Center for Excellence in Leadership and Learning (UVI CELL)

Excused Absence:
Mr. Gary Molloy
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Labor

Mr. Bernard Molespke
Senior Contracts Administrator
ICF Incorporated LLC

Unexcused Absence
Mr. Michael Carty
Chairman
Virgin Islands Workforce Development Board

Attendance:

Committee Members:

• Honorable Genevieve R. Whitaker, Legislative Secretary & Chair
• Honorable Janelle K. Sarauw, Vice-Chair
• Honorable Carla J. Joseph
• Honorable Milton E. Potter
• Honorable Kurt Vialet (excused)
• Honorable Donna A. Frett Gregory (absent)
• Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens (absent)

Senator Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm

Enclosure: Post-committee documentation from Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.