

1-31-2024

35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Cleone Henrietta Creque Legislative Conference Room
St. John, VI 00830

Attn: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens
Majority Leader, Liaison to the White House
Chairman of Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Security

Good morning, Senator Gittens and distinguished guest,

Since Commissioner Ray Martinez was absent on 11-9-2023, I am reiterating some of my concerns. There are times when only two officers are present on a shift on St. John. There are times when surveillance cameras are still not working. These incidents should never happen. Adequate staffing and maintenance should be top priorities supporting law enforcement efforts. It is publicly known that the hot spot for criminal activity is on the street between Long Board and the US Post office. It's so bad that they hold up traffic at will during the evening. *What is being done to curtail criminal activities?*

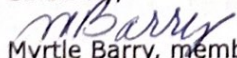
Individuals with connections should not be allowed to make a call that threatens or compromises an officer's job and authority. *Who are these people?* Such acts instill fear and seek to distort law enforcement. The entire VIPD team, especially leadership, must stand with integrity regardless of who calls.

Arrested individuals seem to be walking through a revolving door. Perpetrators and repeat offenders are continually released without conviction. This is frustrating for the community. *What is hindering conviction?* The community and officers know these individuals are guilty. *What is the leadership issues that are restricting the burden of proof? Can the VIPD leadership benefit from training update and upgrade?* The criminals have stepped up their game plan. VIPD cannot afford to fall behind and fail the community they serve. *When was the last leadership update and what was the focus material? Was it helpful or effectual?*

On 11-12-2023 a team of VIPD personnel arrived at my business to report and collect evidence for a break in that took place at 2:30 am. We were professionally questioned; useful suggestions were made by the VIPD team, and forensic evidence was collected. Today, as I speak, *forensic results were still not processed. Is this why crimes remain unsolved?* The processing of evidence is key to solving crime and Forensic Science technology is leading in solving crimes nationally and internationally. A felony was committed. *Today, I must ask who or what organization is hired by the V.I. Government to process our forensic evidence? What is the average wait period?* The VIPD leadership needs a forensic contractor that values the interest of the people of the Virgin Islands and provides results.

In conclusion, there seems to be a cocktail of criminal opportunists plaguing the Virgin Islands. If crimes are not solved, perpetrators will thrive.

Sincerely,


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