

Patrick A. Hanley  
P.O. Box 688  
St. John, USVI 00831

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Senator Kenneth Gittens:  
Chair of Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety

Good Day Senator Gittens:  
all other Senators and distinguish guests present as well as greetings to my fellow St. Johnians.

My name is Patrick Anthony Hanley, I've been a resident of St. John since 1985, during this time I have never encountered any unpleasant situations with our police officers. I have great respect and admiration for police officers. I believe this came about from when I was around the age of five years. My aunt had one of those old-time sewing machines, you know, the kind that you use your feet to pedal in order for it to sew. She made it look so easy and fun, that after observing her skills I decided I could do the same; so I went on the pedal, I started peddling away not concerned as to where I was placing my fingers. Next thing I know I was experiencing lots of pain accompanied with lots of blood, my blood. My finger was caught under the needle and as I peddled the needle broke off in my finger. Everyone within earshot of my screaming came running to my assistance trying to take this needle out, and failing at it. But fortunately, God sent a police officer at the same time who was able to extract the needle in one pull giving immediate relief to everyone, especially me. The pain and punctured marks have long disappeared but my respect for police officers lingers onto this day. This may seem simple to some but that was a big deal to me, a five year old. I'm just trying to give you an understanding of where my respect and admiration for police officers stem from .

These days we have lost respect for our police officers; probably for many different reasons, but we must remember that these individuals help save lives; these individuals help protect us and our communities; these individuals put their lives on the line for us each and every day. Police Officers are the ones with the boots on the ground (as you yourself were, Chairman Gittens). At this very moment we are here in this beautiful senate building where our laws are made and right next door the individuals who enforce the laws are working in deplorable conditions. It's a shame, and a blatant disrespect for us to treat our "protectors" in such a disgraceful manner. It's obvious to see that all four sides of the police building is an eyesore, but more importantly the building is

deteriorating. I've been in the reception area of the building as a citizen trying to make a complaint and it was unpleasant and unbearably hot. That was over a year ago and to date the air condition is still not working in that area. I personally feel that the condition of this building creates a negative psychological effect on these officers which adds to a deterioration of morale, whether these officers realizes it or not. It's a disrespect to the residence of this beautiful community. It's embarrassing for our tourists and visitors to have to come and see. It's also discouraging for our young individuals especially those living on St. John who may be aspiring to become officers and work out of this same building.

I do remember that we have a noise, pollution act in place. It's a law.

At this time I'm going to read from the 2019 US Virgin Island code Title 19 – Health Part VI -Regulatory Provisions Concerning Public Health Chapter 62- Noise Pollution Control. There are three sections that I'd like to identify and I'll comment after each one.

1. It's unlawful:

(a) to operate a sound producing device that creates noise and disturbance.

In my area on almost a daily basis we experience loud noises and disturbances, caused by different kinds of vehicles particularly heavy equipment vehicles with loud mufflers.

2. It's unlawful:

(K) to discharge a firearm in a repetitive and continuous manner in a residential zone or within 500 feet of a residential zone.

Also, in my area, we have experienced gunshots in succession mostly late at night. However, I'd like to say that a neighbor and myself took the situation to the police station and filed a complaint. I'm happy to report that the officers came up with a plan to curb the behavior. They came up with the plan, implemented the plan and since that time we have never heard any gunshot going off in the neighborhood and that's almost a year now. Thanks to the officers.

3. It's unlawful:

(o) the fact that the noise or music exceeding a sound level of .079dBA at a distance of 100 feet from the vehicle or premises from which it originates constitutes prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter.

Not only are these noises and disturbances existing in my neighborhood, I have been in and around the town of Cruz Bay and hear and see cars making noises as they bounce and boom past me disturbing the whole town area.

This concludes my remarks and I would like to hereby thank this body for giving me the opportunity to air some of my grievances concerning public safety issues that exist particularly here on St. John. I trust that we'll soon begin to experience positive changes that address these and other issues resulting in a safer and more peaceful paradise.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick A. Hanley".

Patrick A. Hanley