

1 **TESTIMONY**

2 **BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE, AND**
3 **PUBLIC SAFETY**

4 **35th LEGISLATURE OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

5 **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

6 **THE PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

7 Good day, Honorable Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, Chairman of the Committee on
8 Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety, other members of the 35th Legislature, legislative
9 staff, ladies and gentlemen in the chamber, members of the media, and viewing and listening
10 audience. I am Gleston E. McIntosh, Jr., Executive Director of the Peace Officer Standards and
11 Training Council also known as (P.O.S.T.). I'm honored to be present before you today to give
12 testimony into our agency's responsibilities regarding law enforcement officers' certification, and
13 recertification procedures, outlining the specific training provided and any recruitment efforts or
14 initiatives.

15 The Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and the Office of P.O.S.T. were
16 established under Title 23 Virgin Islands Code., subsection 1201 to establish the standards for
17 training for all law enforcement officers which includes correctional officers. Its purpose is to
18 promote a high level of professionalism and training for all law enforcement and correctional
19 agencies within the territory.

20 P.O.S.T. Administrative Rule, RULE 204-X-1-15; Functions and Duties of the Council
21 states, (1) To study and obtain data, statistics, and information and to make reports concerning the

22 recruitment, selection, and training of all law enforcement officers in the Virgin Islands and to
23 make improvements to the methods of recruitment selection and training of all law enforcement
24 officers.

25 The P.O.S.T. Council is comprised of the following:

26 The Police Commissioner.

27 The Attorney General or designee.

28 Director of Fire and Emergency Management Services or designee

29 Police Chief from the St. Croix District

30 Police Chief from the St. Thomas/St. John District

31 The Director of Enforcement for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources

32 The Director of the Bureau of Corrections; and

33 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands

34 The P.O.S.T. Council is an independent agency within the Virgin Islands Government. All
35 operating costs of the Council, including administrative, secretarial, clerical, and investigative
36 duties are paid through legislative appropriations. The Attorney General provides legal services to
37 the council as needed.

38 As the Executive Director of the council, I have the responsibility for the administration of
39 all Council policies and the daily operation of the office. P.O.S.T. has partnered with several
40 organizations which have allowed us to have a seat at the table to have discussions with Police
41 Commissioners, Law Enforcement Executives, Training Directors, and Police Chiefs from
42 different law enforcement departments throughout the United States. Some of those organizations
43 include the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the
44 International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST),

45 and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). In this arena, we engaged in
46 discussions concerning officers' safety, wellness, recruitment and retention, the use of artificial
47 intelligence in police training, and how to transfer training from the classroom into the workplace.

48 Each peace officer recruit in the territory, must complete and pass the basic peace officer
49 training which consists of eight hundred and thirty-one (831) hours of instruction, broken down
50 into five (5) different categories 1. Academics 2. Physical Fitness 3. Firearms 4. Virgin Islands
51 Code and 5. First Aid Training. Instructors teaching at the basic peace officer academy and in-
52 service training are certified by P.O.S.T. and must maintain their certifications by completing the
53 instructor development course and refresher training.

54 The required annual re-certification training which all peace officers territory-wide must
55 complete under title 23 Virgin Island Code, Section 1204 (a)(8) and the P.O.S.T. Council
56 Resolution that all peace officers must complete forty (40) hours of annual continual training
57 which includes Firearms Recertification, Use of Force, Constitutional Law Updates, Ethics,
58 Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault, Taser-Refresher, OC Spray-Refresher, Baton (Impact
59 Weapon)-Refresher.

60 P.O.S.T. has certified one hundred and forty-eight (148) peace officers' territory-wide from
61 2019 to the present. Along with tracking the recertification of approximately six hundred and forty
62 (640) peace officers' territory-wide who completed training through VIPD and other law
63 enforcement agencies annually.

64 Currently, the territory has twenty-two (22) agencies that have peace officers' status with
65 full arrest powers and can enforce the laws within the territory including the issuing of citations
66 for traffic violations. Those agencies are the Virgin Islands Police Department, Attorney General
67 Office, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Corrections, Human Services (YRC),

68 Department of Health, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Virgin Islands Lottery,
69 Taxicab Commission, Government House Security, Department of Licensing and Consumer
70 Affairs, Inspector General Office, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Judicial Branch, Virgin Islands
71 Legislature, Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, University of the Virgin Islands, Virgin
72 Islands Port Authority, Virgin Islands Housing Authority, Juan F. Luis Hospital, Roy Lester
73 Schneider Regional Medical Center and the Peace Officer Standards and Training. These peace
74 officers are comprised from the Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and Semi-
75 autonomous Agencies.

76 The office of P.O.S.T. has provided continuous and quality training that is in line with
77 industry standards based on current events. These training include Instructor Development
78 Certification, Single and Two Man Active Shooter, Officer Survival, Dignitary Protection,
79 Interview and Interrogation, Firearms Instructor Certification, GLOCK Armorer Course,
80 Nonviolence Crisis Intervention Certification, Defensive Tactics Certification, Basic and
81 advanced SWAT and Recruiting, Hiring, Background Investigation, and Retention Trainings.
82 P.O.S.T. provided these training to four hundred and ninety-five (495) peace officers in the
83 territory including civilian personnel, attorneys, and support staff from various agencies.

84 This year, P.O.S.T. will be seeking additional training through the grant process and any
85 available funding source to ensure that all peace officers receive the highest level of training
86 according to industry standards and best practices.

87 The office of P.O.S.T. is the leading agency tasked with establishing professional
88 standards, top-quality training, and providing effective services to develop and support all peace
89 officers and law enforcement departments within the Virgin Islands Government.

90 The council is also tasked with ensuring all peace officers in the territory receive the highest
91 level of law enforcement training so that all law enforcement officers can provide committed
92 service and protection for the community.

93 I would like to thank the dedicated staff at P.O.S.T. for their hard work, the P.O.S.T.
94 council members, and the committee on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety, for the
95 opportunity to provide testimony on our agency's responsibilities for law enforcement officers'
96 certification and recertification procedures.

97 I stand ready to answer all questions you might have for our agency.

**UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS
TRAINING CURRICULUM**

	COURSE	HOURS
	Basic Computers	8
	Baton Techniques	24
	Building Searches	4
	Communications	16
	Constitutional Law	40
	Consumer Law	4
	Crime Prevention	20
	Criminal Justice System	9
	Crowd Control	8
	Courtroom Testimony	16
	Defensive Driving	24
	Defensive Tactics	60
	Domestic Violence	24
	Drug Awareness	12
	Ethics	16
	Field Interrogation	2
	Field Note Taking & Crime Scene Recording	3
	*Firearms	*40
	*First Aid	*24
	Forensic Science	20
	Handcuffing Techniques	6
	History of Police Work	6
	Interpersonal Communication	16
	Interview & Interrogation	8
	Juvenile Justice	24
	Observation & Perception	3
	OC Spray	8
	Officer Survival	8
	Personal Financial Management	24
	Physical Training	80

	COURSE	HOURS
	Preliminary Investigations	30
	Preparing an Affidavit	8
	Purpose & Duties of Police Patrol	4
	Report Writing	40
	Rules & Procedures	40
	Searching a Suspect	4
	Stress Management for Law Enforcement	16
	Taser	8
	Traffic Enforcement	30
	Transportation of Prisoners	2
	Types of Patrol	4
	Use of Force Continuum	16
	Vehicle Stops	8
	Verbal Judo	8
	Virgin Islands Code	40
	Water Safety	16
	TOTAL HOURS	*831

The above basic minimum curriculum for United States Virgin Islands Peace Officer certification is hereby approved and adopted.

Peace Officer Standards Training Council

8/4/17

Date

Delroy Richards Sr.,
Police Commissioner/Chairman

8/4/2017

Date

Kevin Hewitt,
POST Director

8/4/2017

Date

Alexandra Francis Smith,
POST Curriculum Program Coordinator



Government of
The United States of the Virgin Islands

PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING
OFFICE OF THE POST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GLESTON E. MCINTOSH, JR.
Executive Director



1 ESTATE DIAMOND
FREDERIKSTED,
ST. CROIX, VI 00840
(340) 778-1250 EXT. 202
(340) 778-1251 FAX

**PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (hereinafter "Council") was established within the Virgin Islands Police Department, in 2001 by Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 16 Section 1201 (a); and

WHEREAS the Council is charged to "establish the requirement for peace officers to be re-certified on an annual basis" pursuant to Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, Section 1204 (a)(8);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Virgin Islands Peace Officer Standards and Training Council does adopt that all police officers and peace officers in the Virgin Islands must meet the following annual continual education:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Hours</u>
a) Firearms Certification	16
b) Use of Force Training	6
c) Constitutional Law Updates	4
d) Ethics	4
e) Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault	4
f) Taser - Refresher	2
g) OC - Refresher	2
h) Baton (Impact Weapon) - Refresher	2
Total Hours	40



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

January 29, 2018

VIA MESSENGER

The Honorable Myron D. Jackson
Senate President
Thirty Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: Governor's Action on Bill numbered 32-0010

Dear Mr. President:

I write to advise you that, pursuant to Section 9(d) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954 as amended, I have today acted on the below referenced legislative bill.

I have approved Bill No. 32-0010, an Act allowing for franchise tax increases; granting peace officer status to security guards of the Legislature, enforcement officers of the Virgin Islands Lottery, the executive director of the Peace Officers Standard and Training, investigators, and enforcement officers at the Juan F. Luis and Roy Lester Schneider Hospitals; extending the distance for the storage of hazardous chemicals; extending the availability of funds appropriated in Act 7866 to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority ("VIHFA") for the removal of asbestos panels in previously constructed homes under VIHFA's home program; and, appropriating \$200,000.00 to the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation for the purchase of five passenger vans for use in St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John.

As always, thank you for your continued work on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Mapp".

Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor

Enclosure

ACT NO. 8027

BILL NO. 32-0010

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2017

An Act amending title 13 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, section 531 relating to the rate and computation of franchise taxes; amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, section 3561(a) to grant peace officer status to security guards of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, enforcement officers of the V.I. Lottery, the executive director of the Peace Officers Standard and Training and investigators and enforcement officers of the Juan E. Luis and Roy L. Schneider Hospitals; amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, sections 608 (c) and 612 extending the distance beyond which hazardous chemical are prohibited; extending the availability of funds appropriated in section 2 of Act No. 7897 for V. I. Housing Finance Authority's asbestos in homes program, and amending Act No. 7866, adding 5 passenger vans to the First Responder Fleet Project for the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation

---0---

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 13 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, section 531 is amended in the following instances:

(a) Subsection (a) is amended in the first sentence after the phrase "each thousand dollars of" by inserting "stock, capital, and paid in", and the second, third and fourth sentences are stricken.

(b) Existing subsections (b), (c) and (d) are re-designated as subsections (f), (g) and (h) and new subsections (b), (c), (d) and (e) are inserted to read as follows:

"(b) Notwithstanding the definition in section 100 of this title, for purposes of computing franchise taxes, the term, "capital stock", includes the stated value of all classes of stock authorized, issued, and outstanding, plus the paid in capital in excess of stated value. "Paid in capital" means the cash and other

consideration received less expenses, including commissions paid or incurred by the entity, in connection with the issuance of its shares, plus amounts transferred to paid-in capital by action of the board of directors or shareholders pursuant to a share dividend, share split, or otherwise, and plus the amount of capital paid in that is in excess of the stated par value of any class of stock.

(c) For computation of taxes owed in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), the minimum franchise tax is \$300 for any corporation whose capital stock used in conducting business in the United States Virgin Islands is no more than \$250,000.

(d) In no case shall the tax on any corporation for a full taxable year, computed by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section be more than \$150,000 for any entity whose capital stock used in conducting business in the United States Virgin Islands exceeds \$250,000.

(e) The franchise tax for a V.I. foreign sales corporation is \$500. A full year's tax must be collected for any portion of a year."

(c) There is no statute of limitations on the collection of franchise taxes, and the associated penalties and interest that become due and owing after the enactment of this statute. This applies prospectively.

SECTION 2. Title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 305, subchapter I, section 3561, subsection (a) is amended by inserting ", security officers" after "Chief and Assistant Chief of Security" and by inserting "enforcement officers of the Virgin Islands Lottery, executive Director of the Peace Officers Standards and Training and investigators, enforcement officers of the Governor Juan F. Luis and Roy L. Schneider Hospitals" after "Virgin Islands Housing Authority Police Force."

SECTION 3. Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9, section 608, subsection (c) and section 612 are amended by striking "300" and inserting "1,000."

SECTION 4. The funds appropriated in Act No. 7897, section 2, - V.I. Housing Finance Authority Asbestos Homes-\$920,000, remain available until expended.

SECTION 5. Act No. 7866 is amended at the end of section 1 by adding: "Five passenger vans - two for St. Croix, two for St. Thomas, and one for St. John - for the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation for a total cost of \$200,000 or so much of the sum as necessary."

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 21, 2017.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 9th Day
of January, A.D., 2018.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Myron D. Jackson".

Myron D. Jackson
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jean A. Forde".

Jean A. Forde
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 32-0010 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of
the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, This 9th day of January, 2018 A.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kenneth E. Mapp".

Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor