



**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN
ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
DIVISION OF FESTIVALS**

**Testimony on St. Thomas Carnival Planning
Ian Turnbull Director, Division of Festivals
Department of Tourism
April 4, 2024**

Good morning, Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety Committee Chairman, Honorable Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, Committee Members and Senators of the 35th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands, legislative staff, members of the media, and the listening and viewing audience.

I am Ian Turnbull, Director of Festivals. Today, I will be testifying on behalf of Commissioner Joseph Boschulte, who is unable to attend today's hearing. Pursuant to your invitation, Assistant Director Halvor Hart III and I are here to provide clarity with regard to the Department of Tourism Division of Festivals event planning regarding safety/security, environmental clean-ups, permitting requirements, and other operational plans and collaborative efforts for the 2024 St Thomas Carnival.

Since January 17, 2024, The Department of Tourism Executive Team including - Festival Assistant Directors Shamari Haynes, Leona Smith, Halvor Hart and I have hosted eight interdepartmental planning meetings with representatives from the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Virgin Islands Department of Health, the Virgin Islands Department of Sports Parks & Recreation, the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency, the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority and the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

Priority topics during these meetings and the subsequent follow-up departmental meetings focused on event logistics, community health and safety, and location preservation for all Division of Festivals-led events to include: Coney Island, Prince and Princess Pageant, Queen Show, Boat Race, Calypso Monarch, PanoRama, Quelbe Tramp, Steel Band Tramp, Food Fair, J'ouvert, Children's Parade and Adult Parade.

Additionally, members of the Department of Tourism have met with the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority to discuss and plan the execution of utilities for the village booths and staging. Currently, we have a confirmed timeline for power connection that aligns with all other required inspections in anticipation of the village opening date.

Our department has secured two local restroom vendors, and we have outlined the placement of eleven bathroom stalls at the Village, seven bathroom stalls at the Food Fair, and three bathroom stalls on the parade route designated for senior use, in addition to existing public bathrooms.

As we finalize the intricate details for this year's event, our department will continue to engage in cross-departmental partisanship to finalize and execute a variety of procedures and tactics that are bound to foster a seamless Carnival season.

From restroom accessibility in the village to J'ouvert and parade crowd control and boat race access, the Department of Tourism and our counterparts are dedicated to facilitating a world-class Carnival celebration that is not only fun and memorable but safe, organized and within all cited regulations.

In closing, we want to thank Governor Bryan and Lt. Governor Roach, the adjacent departmental associates, the members of the Senate, our committed volunteers, and my phenomenal colleagues at the Department of Tourism for their unwavering commitment to elevating the U.S. Virgin Islands, our culture, and our traditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

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