



Party

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

HA'PENNY BEACH CLUB
ST. CROIX, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



*30 Years of Regulatory Excellence:
Honoring Our Legacy,
Shaping the Future*



*The Honorable Marvin L. Pickering,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
and The Commissioners of the
Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission
cordially invite you to*

*Celebrating 30 years of Regulatory Excellence:
Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future
a Black Tie Gala*



*Saturday, November 8, 2025
Ha 'Penny Beach Club
St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands
Cocktails: 6:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm
Program: 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm
Dinner: 8:00 pm
Dancing Until Midnight*



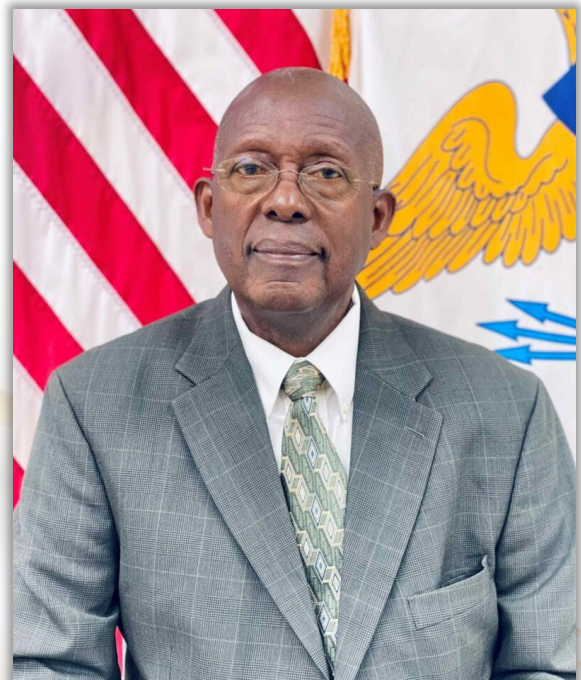
Our Leadership



Marvin L. Pickering
Chairman / Chief Executive Officer



Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell
Vice-Chair / Commissioner



Luther F. Renee
Secretary/Treasurer / Commissioner

Message from the Chairman



Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission
Eileen Ramona Petersen Casino Control Commission Building
3005 Orange Grove
Christiansted, VI 00820
Telephone: 340-718-3616 ♦ Fax: 340-718-3136

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN and CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

Together with my colleagues—Commissioner Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell and Commissioner Luther F. Renee—and our dedicated Executive Team and Casino Inspectors, it is with great pride and gratitude that I join in celebrating three decades of dedicated service by the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission as the licensing and regulatory authority for the casino industry in the United States Virgin Islands.

Since the enactment of the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act on November 3, 1995, the Commission has remained steadfast in its mission to uphold integrity, accountability, and excellence in overseeing and monitoring legalized casino operations. Our journey has been one of growth and resilience—shaped by the foresight of the 21st Legislature of the Virgin Islands, the courage of the late Honorable Governor Roy Lester Schneider in signing Bill No. 21-0027 into law, and the pioneering leadership of the Commission's first Chairperson, the late Honorable Eileen Ramona Petersen, along with the original Commissioners. Today, we proudly honor their vision and the commitment of all who contributed to the Commission's establishment, including legal and financial advisors, administrative personnel, government officials, and our casino licensees who faced new frontiers with determination and purpose.

Under the theme "*Celebrating 30 Years of Casino Regulatory Excellence: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future*," we pause to reflect on our rich past and the many milestones achieved along the way. We also look forward with optimism as we strengthen the current framework of casino licensure and regulation and advance boldly into 21st century gaming, while always ensuring that this vital industry remains a meaningful contributor to the economic and social progress of the Virgin Islands.

Over the past thirty years, the Commission has evolved in both structure and scope, adapting to the dynamic nature of the gaming industry while maintaining its unwavering commitment to fairness, transparency, and public trust. Except for an isolated challenge a few years ago, our record has been one of consistent professionalism and high standards—hallmarks that have enhanced our territory's reputation within the broader gaming community.

On behalf of the Commission, I extend heartfelt thanks to our partners, stakeholders, and the Virgin Islands community for their steadfast support. As we commemorate this 30th anniversary milestone, we look ahead to many years of responsible regulation, innovation, and service to the people of the United States Virgin Islands.

With sincerest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marvin L. Pickering".

Marvin L. Pickering
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer





Program

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The Honorable George W. Cannon, Jr.
Retired Magistrate Judge
District Court of the US Virgin Islands

INVOCATION

Reverend Dr. Jermaine Mulley
Pastor, St. Luke AME Church
St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

WELCOME

The Honorable Marvin L. Pickering
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

REMARKS

The Honorable Almando “Rocky” Liburd
President, 21st Legislature of the US Virgin Islands

The Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens
Vice President, 36th Legislature of the US Virgin Islands

The Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor of the US Virgin Islands

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell
Vice Chair, Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Honorable Susan F. Maven
Retired Judge, New Jersey Superior Court



PRESENTATION TO KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Chairman Marvin L. Pickering

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CASINOS
Chairman Marvin L. Pickering

Presented to
Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino
Caravelle Hotel and Casino

REMARKS
The Honorable Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor of the US Virgin Islands

UNVEILING OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
Governor Albert Bryan Jr.
and the Commissioners of the
Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS
The Honorable Luther F. Renee
Secretary/Treasurer
Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

Honorable Susan F. Maven



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



New Jersey Casino Control Commission

The Honorable Susan F. Maven was appointed to the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in 1998, serving until November 2001. In 2000, she took on the role of Vice Chairwoman. During her tenure, she frequently spoke on panels that addressed responsible gaming. One notable collaboration was with the Honorable Eileen R. Petersen, Chairwoman of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission (VICCC). Together, they facilitated the training of VICCC's first group of inspectors and supervisors prior to the opening of the Divi Casino. Judges Maven and Petersen formed a strong professional and personal bond through their shared efforts.

New Jersey Judicial Career

Susan Maven was appointed to the New Jersey Superior Court in December 2001, where she served in both the Family and Criminal Divisions. She was elevated to the Appellate Division, New Jersey's intermediate appellate court, serving from 2012 through 2015 and authoring hundreds of opinions. Upon returning to the Trial Court Family Division in 2016, Judge Maven oversaw family law cases and the juvenile delinquency docket. She played a key role in developing and implementing New Jersey's Juvenile Human Trafficking Diversion Program, a pilot initiative to provide trauma-informed services to court-involved youth at risk for or affected by human trafficking.

Service and Leadership

After retiring from the Judiciary in 2022, Judge Maven remained active in the legal community. She is a dedicated member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), serving on both the Diversity and International Committees. Judge Maven has presented on topics including juvenile justice, interstate custody jurisdiction, and human trafficking at NCJFCJ conferences and in state courts. She is a founding member of the National Judicial Network: Forum on Human Trafficking and Immigration in State Courts, contributing as a Steering Committee member and faculty.

Education and Affiliations

Judge Maven completed her education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983 and from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1987. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Judge Maven resides in New Jersey with her husband, Vincent.



Message from the Governor



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

I find myself reflecting on the profound impact of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission with immense pride and genuine excitement. The story of the Commission is a testament to what dedicated individuals can achieve for an entire community. Each year, every challenge you have faced and all your accomplishments have shaped the records, the heart, and the progress of the Virgin Islands.

You saw possibilities where others saw obstacles. You built an industry with careful vision and unwavering integrity. The legacy you are cultivating is woven into the very life of the Virgin Islands and touches families and businesses throughout our territory. You have ignited progress, championed responsible growth, and shown that a steadfast commitment to fairness yields lasting results.

Your dedication is evident not just in policies or numbers, but in the confidence of families who see new opportunities, in the pride of young people inspired by your leadership, and in the unity of a community that now stands stronger and more hopeful. The impact of your work will echo for generations.

This anniversary is a celebration of every late night, every tough decision, and every moment that you chose hope over hesitation. It is an affirmation of your drive and your willingness to lift our community higher, even when it means taking risks or forging a new way forward.

As you celebrate all that you have built, I urge you to continue embracing new challenges and possibilities. May the pride and spirit of this evening inspire your continued service to our islands. Congratulations and thank you for 30 outstanding years of leadership, vision, and hope.

With the greatest respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan Jr.".

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor



Message from the Lieutenant Governor



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



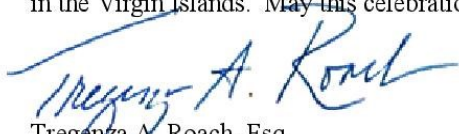
MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

It is both an honor and a privilege to offer this congratulatory message on the occasion of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission's 30th Anniversary Gala. This milestone event commemorates the enactment of the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act which provides for regulated casino gaming in the Territory and highlights the successes of the agency since its creation in 1995.

This gala's theme, "Celebrating 30 Years of Casino Regulatory Excellence: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future", appropriately depicts the pivotal role the Casino Control Commission has played in the development and growth of the gaming industry, which includes casinos, Internet gaming, racinos, and hotel resorts. Insightfully, the gaming industry was enacted to stimulate the Virgin Islands economy by diversifying our tourism product and enhancing recreational activities. Through provisions of the Act, the Casino Revenue Fund has been a sustainable and beneficial funding source to various entities and programs including education, health & hospitals, and public safety.

I commend the leadership of the Casino Control Commission and its dynamic staff for maintaining and protecting the integrity of the gaming industry, thereby affirming the Virgin Islands as a reputable jurisdiction throughout the Nation. I also acknowledge with much regard the significant contributions of the inaugural members of the Commission under the stellar leadership of the late Judge Eileen R. Petersen, who implemented high standards of excellence in service, regulation, and community engagement.

I look forward to the continued growth and effective regulation of gaming in the Virgin Islands as we recognize the Casino Control Commission for its 30 years of service. I wish for guidance and blessings over the Commission and all who have contributed to the meaningful impact of gaming in the Virgin Islands. May this celebration be joyful and memorable to all.


Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor



Message from the Senate President

The Capitol Building
Charlotte Amalie, United States Virgin Islands 00802
340.774.0880

Golden Rock
Christiansted, United States Virgin Islands 00820
340.773.2424

St. John Annex
Cruz Bay, United States Virgin Islands 00830
340.776.6285



CHAIRMAN
Committee of the Whole

VICE CHAIR
Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure, and Planning

MEMBER
Committee on Rules
Committee on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services

MILTON E. POTTER

PRESIDENT

36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands



Message from the Senate President

On behalf of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission on the momentous occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

This significant milestone marks three decades since the enactment of the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995, signed into law on May 8, 1995 by our late Governor Roy L. Schneider. This landmark legislation laid the foundation for regulated casino gaming in our Territory and established the Commission as its chief regulatory body.

Since its inception, the Commission has exemplified unwavering dedication to safeguarding the integrity, fairness, and transparency of the casino gaming industry. Through a robust licensing process, diligent enforcement of regulations, and oversight by the Division of Gaming Enforcement, the Commission has earned the trust of the public and fortified the Territory's economic and tourism sectors.

This anniversary is not only a reflection of past achievements, but a celebration of the vision of those who crafted the original legislation, the steadfast leadership of successive Commissions, and the professionalism of its staff. It is a testament to their collective efforts in maintaining a regulatory framework that promotes both opportunity and accountability.

As we honor this legacy, we also look to a future shaped by evolving challenges and opportunities. The Commission's ongoing efforts to modernize the regulatory framework, including the consideration of internet gaming and sports betting underscore its commitment to adapting with integrity to the 21st century gaming landscape.

The Legislature continues to be a proud and supportive partner in the Commission's mission. We remain dedicated to initiatives that foster responsible gaming, economic growth, and public welfare across our Territory.

Congratulations to Board Chairman, Marvin L. Pickering and the staff and management of the Casino Control Commission on this remarkable anniversary, and best wishes for continued strength, innovation, and service in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Milton E. Potter".

Milton E. Potter
Senate President
36th Legislature of the US Virgin Islands



Message from the Delegate to Congress



STACEY E. PLASKETT
VIRGIN ISLANDS

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSWOMAN STACEY E. PLASKETT

On behalf of the Members of the 119th Congress and my office, I extend my warmest regards to the **Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission** as you celebrate your **30th Anniversary Gala**. This remarkable milestone represents three decades of unwavering commitment to regulatory excellence and economic stewardship for our beloved Virgin Islands.

Since the enactment of the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act on November 3, 1995, the Commission has served as the cornerstone of our territory's gaming industry, ensuring the highest standards of integrity, fairness, and transparency. Your dedication to responsible regulation has not only protected consumers and maintained public trust but has also fostered an environment where legitimate gaming enterprises can thrive and contribute meaningfully to our local economy.

The theme of your celebration—*"Celebrating 30 Years of Casino Regulatory Excellence: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future"*—perfectly captures both the Commission's distinguished history and its continued vision for our islands' prosperity. Through your diligent oversight, you have helped establish the U.S. Virgin Islands as a premier destination for responsible gaming and tourism, creating countless jobs and generating vital revenue that supports essential services for our communities.

As your Member of Congress, I have witnessed firsthand the Commission's professionalism and commitment to our territory's best interests. Your work exemplifies the spirit of excellence that defines Virgin Islanders. I am continually impressed by your ability to adapt to evolving industry standards while maintaining the trust and confidence of both operators and the public.

This gala represents not just a celebration of past achievements, but a renewed commitment to the continued growth and success of our islands. As we look toward the future, I pledge my continued support and collaboration as we work together to ensure that the Virgin Islands remains a model for regulatory excellence and economic opportunity. The Commission's next chapter will undoubtedly build upon this solid foundation of integrity and service.

Congratulations to all Commissioners, staff members, and stakeholders who have contributed to this incredible legacy. May your celebration be filled with joy, reflection on achievements well-earned, and excitement for the bright future ahead.

Sincerely,

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

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FREDERICKTOWN, VI 00840
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FAX: (340) 778-5111

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ST. THOMAS DISTRICT OFFICE
9100 PORT OF SALE MALL, SUITE 22
ST. THOMAS, VI 00802
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FAX: (340) 774-8033



Message from Senator Angel Bolques, Jr.



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

P.O. BOX 1690
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00802
(340) 693-3571

The Honorable

Angel Bolques, Jr.

Senator-At-Large

36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CHAIRMAN

Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports & Parks

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture

MEMBER

Committee of the Whole

Committee on Rules & Judiciary

Committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety

Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure & Planning

Sub-Committee on Energy & Infrastructure Development

November 8, 2025

Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission
Eileen Ramona Petersen Casino Control Commission Building
3005 Orange Grove
Christiansted, VI 00820

Dear Chairman Pickering and Esteemed Commissioners,

It is with sincere appreciation and warm congratulations that I recognize the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission on the extraordinary occasion of your 30th Anniversary.

This milestone is far more than a celebration of years gone by, it reflects your steadfast commitment to integrity, public trust, and the responsible advancement of an industry that has become a vital part of the Virgin Islands economy. Since your establishment in 1995, the Commission has served as a pillar of sound regulation, fairness, and transparency. Your leadership has not only elevated the standards of casino oversight but has also created meaningful opportunities that continue to strengthen and uplift our communities.

The theme "*Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future*" truly captures the spirit of your journey. The Commission's legacy is one of perseverance, vision, and impactful service, built by dedicated leadership and supported by a devoted team. I join with Virgin Islanders across the territory in expressing my deep gratitude for your service over the past three decades. May this celebration serve as both a reflection on your accomplishments and a renewed call to excellence in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again, and thank you for 30 years of exemplary public service. Together, we can build a stronger Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angel Bolques Jr.".

Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

Senator At Large

Chairman, Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks

36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



Message from Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.



SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance



Congratulations to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

My wife, Avril, my staff and I extend hearty congratulations to Marvin Pickering, Chairman of the Virgi Islands Casino Control Commission, and all former and current members of the Commission as they celebrate 30 years of the establishment of this agency. Our congratulations are also extended to the staff members who over the years have contributed to the Commission's progress.

As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission, we celebrate not just the institution, but the vision and dedication of those who built the foundation of our gaming industry. Since the passage of the legislation in 1995, the Casino Control Commissioners have been tenacious advocates and tireless watchdogs for the St. Croix gaming industry. This standard was set by the Honorable Eileen R. Petersen, the first Chairman of the Casino Control Commission and the first Commissioners and continues to this day with the current Chairman, Marvin Pickering, and Commissioners. These men and women have served and continue to serve with the highest level of personal integrity and an unshakeable resolve to build, grow and protect the St. Croix gaming industry.

As the Commission continues to build on the foundation of its first 30 years, I am excited to see the ways it will expand the industry through internet and fantasy gaming and other opportunities. The future of the industry is bright!

Congratulations to the Casino Control Commission on this milestone accomplishment. My best wishes to all for a memorable anniversary celebration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Novelle E. Francis, Jr.".

Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senator, 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



Message from Senator Kenneth L. Gittens



Kenneth L. Gittens
Senate Majority Leader

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Office of Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie, VI 00804 • 3022 Golden Rock, Christiansted, VI 00820

COMMITTEES

Homeland Security,
Justice & Public
Safety

Chairperson

...

Health, Hospitals &
Human Services

Vice-Chair

...

Rules & Judiciary

Member

...

Disaster Recovery,
Infrastructure &
Planning

Member

...

Government
Operations, Veterans
Affairs, & Consumer
Protection

Member

...

Committee of the
Whole

Member

November 3, 2025

Congratulations on your 30th Anniversary

With a sense of great pride and heartfelt congratulations, I extend my warmest regards to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

Over the last three decades, the Commission has served as a pillar of integrity, oversight, and progress in our Territory's gaming industry. As the Commission and the industry have grown, your unwavering commitment to regulatory excellence has not only safeguarded the public interest but also fostered economic development and responsible gaming practices here in the Virgin Islands.

I find the theme, "*Celebrating 30 Years of Casino Regulatory Excellence: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future*," as quite fitting and a true testament to the Commission's enduring impact. Our community appreciates your work and dedication, which has laid a strong foundation for future innovation and growth. I pray that the next chapter is marked by continued success and service.

As we commemorate this milestone, I join you in reflecting on the achievements of the past and pledge my continued support of the Commission and the work you do. Once again, I thank you and wish you congratulations on behalf of myself, my staff, my family and the people of the Virgin Islands.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Gittens".

Kenneth L. Gittens

Vice President

36th Legislature

Telephone: 340-773-2424 • Fax: 340-712-2378 • Email: senatorgittens@legvi.org

"Lead By Example"



Message from Senator Franklin D. Johnson

Franklin D. Johnson Senator

36th Legislature of United States Virgin Islands



Committees:

Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports & Parks
Economic Development & Agriculture
Education & Workforce Development
Government Operations, Veterans Affairs & Consumer Protection
Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety



Celebrating 30 Years of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future

It gives me great pride to salute the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission on the occasion of your 30th anniversary.

Thirty years is more than a milestone — it is a testament to the perseverance of those who believed in the promise of regulated gaming and worked diligently to build a framework rooted in trust and accountability. The Commission's work has safeguarded our community while allowing the industry to grow in a way that supports jobs, tourism, and opportunities for Virgin Islanders.

As someone who has dedicated much of my career to public safety and service, I recognize the importance of institutions like the Commission in protecting both our people and the integrity of our institutions. Your vigilance ensures that progress is balanced with responsibility and that the public can have confidence in the systems designed to serve them.

On behalf of my office, I congratulate the Commission, past and present, on 30 years of service. May the next chapter be written with the same dedication and foresight that has brought us here today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Johnson".

Franklin D. Johnson
Senator

36th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands



Message from Senator Carla J. Joseph

Legislature of the Virgin Islands



CAPITOL BUILDING, P.O. BOX 1690
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00804
OFFICE (340) 693-3515 * FAX (340) 693-3633
EMAIL: senatorcarlajoseph@legvi.org

Office of Senator Carla J. Joseph



The Honorable Carla J. Joseph
Senator
36th Legislature of the V.I.

CHAIR:

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

VICE CHAIR:

*Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging,
Sports, and Parks*

*Liaison to the United States Department
of Interior and Office of Insular Affairs*

MEMBER:

Committee of the Whole

*Committee on Education
and Workplace Development*

*Committee on Housing, Transportation,
and Telecommunications*

*Committee on Government Operations,
Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection*

Happy 30th Anniversary to the

Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

Congratulations on to this momentous occasion – the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission. Thirty years ago, this Commission was established with a clear and vital mandate: to serve as the vigilant guardian of integrity, fairness, and responsible gaming within our casino industry.

We honor the legacy of those who laid the foundation, the dedication and hard work of the Commissioners, Commission's staff, the cooperation of industry partners, and the enduring support of our community.

This year's theme, "*Celebrating 30 Years of Casino Regulatory Excellence: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future*," perfectly captures the Commission's dual focus—reflecting on a proud history while boldly embracing the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. May the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission's unwavering commitment to excellence continue to guide the evolution of our gaming industry. May its integrity remain steadfast, serving as a model of principled governance.

And may the decades ahead be marked by continued growth, innovation, and impactful contributions to the economic prosperity of our Territory—always upholding the highest ethical standards in service to our people.

Congratulations once again on this remarkable milestone. May the celebration of your legacy be as distinguished as the work you have accomplished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla J. Joseph".

Carla J. Joseph
Senator
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



Message from Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

HONORABLE CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.

Chair, Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety



Vice-Chair, Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunication
Member, Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning
Member, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture
Member, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission 30th Anniversary Honoring Three Decades of Regulatory Excellence

On this momentous occasion, my staff and I extend congratulations to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission ("VICCC") as it marks an incredible milestone – 30 years of dedicated regulatory service to the gaming industry and to the public at large. For three decades, the V.I. Casino Control Commission has consistently safeguarded public interest and ensured compliance of gaming laws.

Thirty years ago, following healthy and robust debate, the 21st Legislature of the Virgin Islands on April 27, 1995, with a 9-6 vote approved Bill No. 21-0027, to legalize casino gambling on St. Croix. The bill was signed into law by the Governor Roy L. Schneider on May 8, 1995.

It has not been a smoothly paved road for the VICCC, as there were issues immediately upon enactment that needed to be addressed. However, the inaugural chairperson, the Honorable Eileen Petersen and the first commissioners, with just law in hand, drafted, promulgated, and adopted rules and regulations and opened the first casino in the territory in the short span of 3 years. It is not lost on me or the community, the amount of work that went in to develop the framework and body of the regulatory agency that has withstood 30 years of inquiries and challenges.

The work of the VICCC has not only helped shape a more transparent and accountable gaming industry but has also contributed significantly to the financial stability of our government. The impact of your regulations, policies, and enforcement efforts has been profound—you have helped build public trust, protect players, and support a fair, secure, and responsible gaming environment.

Anniversaries mark more than just the passage of time; it is a celebration of the impact you and your staff has had in your community. As you reflect on the journey of the VICCC, let us remember and honor the visionaries who laid the groundwork, and recognize the continued dedication of the current leadership and staff. Collectively we must look ahead, with renewed purpose and resilience, to the challenges and opportunities of the future and take full advantage of what they offer.

Congratulations on this milestone,

Honorable Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.
Senator, 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



Message from Senator Kurt A. Violet



36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands

*The Honorable
Senator Kurt Violet
Majority Leader*

*Gloryvee Christian-Krieger
Chief of Staff
gchristiankrieger@legvi.org
340-712-2254*

*Samanta Prentice
Chief Researcher
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*Janella John
Communications Manager
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340-712-2256*

*Committee Chair
Education and Workforce
Development*

*Committee Member
Health, Hospitals, & Human
Services*

*Disaster Recovery,
Infrastructure and Planning*

*Housing, Transportation and
Telecommunication*

*Budget, Appropriations and
Finance*

"Always Ready to Serve"

Senator Violet Congratulates the VI Casino Control Commission on 30 Years of Service

I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission on your 30th Anniversary.

For three decades, the Commission has served as a vital regulator and guardian of integrity within the gaming industry. Your work has not only safeguarded fairness and accountability but has also ensured that this sector contributes to the economic development and stability of our Territory.

This milestone is a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and vision of those who have served and continue to serve on the Commission. As we celebrate this achievement, may it also inspire continued innovation, transparency, and commitment to excellence in the years ahead.

Congratulations on 30 years of service to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kurt A. Violet".

Senator Kurt A. Violet
Senator
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands





The Creating Legislation

111

ACT NO. 6069

BILL NO. 21-0027

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES

Regular Session

1995

To establish the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control
Act of 1995

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BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) Title 29, Sections 228, 228a, 229, and 229a, Virgin Islands Code is amended to establish a new zoning designation to accommodate casino gaming to include: two (2) Tier I casino zoning sites, one (1) Tier II casino zoning site, and one (1) Tier III casino zoning site, in accord with section 436 of the "Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995" to be designated as the following categories:

- "(r) G-1 Gaming - Tier I Casino
- (s) G-2 Gaming - Tier II Casino
- (t) G-3 Gaming - Tier III Casino
- (u) G-4 Gaming - Tier IV Casino"

(b) Except for any casino license applicant qualified for automatic zoning under section 436 (g) of the "Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995", casino zoning sites shall be designated after petition has been made and approval received from the Virgin Islands Legislature, pursuant to Title 29, section 238 of the Virgin Islands Code.

Title 29, Chapter 3, Virgin Islands Code, is amended by adding a new Section 228a to read as follows:

"Section 228a. G-1 Gaming - Tier I Casino Resort

Uses permitted as a matter of right:

- (1) Accessory Buildings and Businesses
- (2) Alcoholic Beverages, Retail
- (3) Barber or Beauty Shops

Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act



-177-

contractor's business enterprise may be challenged. The procedure shall include proper notice and hearing for all parties concerned.

Section 562. Regulations

The Department of Labor and the Casino Control Commission shall develop such other regulations as may be necessary to interpret and implement the provisions of this act.

Section 563. Full compliance requirement; applicability to contractors, subcontractors and their assignees

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary:

(1) No special legislation or IDC certificate shall exempt the casino licensee from full compliance with the provisions of this act;

(2) The provisions of this act shall be applicable to any and all corporations, businesses, or individuals providing services to the casino hotel licensee;

(3) Casino hotel licensees shall not abrogate; any provision of this act through contract(s) or contractual employee(s); provided further that in the event there is a contract(s) or contractual employee(s), all provisions relating to employment, and benefits, but not limited thereto, shall apply;

(4) Jurisdiction of the commission under this act extends to any and all subcontractors doing business with the casino hotel licensees.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on April 25, 1995.

Witness our Hands and the Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 5 Day of May, A.D., 1995.

ALMANDO "ROCKY" LIBARD
President

ALLIE-ALLISON PETRUS
Legislative Secretary



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(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, every casino licensee licensed to do business in the Virgin Islands shall lease at least fifty (50%) percent of the retail establishment space within any casino licensee's hotel and/or casino bona fide resident businesses, and shall limit the amount of non-bona fide resident businesses to no more than five thousand (50,000) square feet within any casino licensee hotel and/or casino. This square footage requirement shall not apply to bars, restaurants and laundries within casino and/or related hotel.

(c) A casino licensee shall make a good faith effort to meet the requirements of this section and shall annually demonstrate the commission that such an effort was made.

Section 559. Noncompliance with provisions relating to expenditures and assignments to preferred contractor's business enterprises; suspension, revocation or other penalties compliance period

If the commission determines that the provisions of sections 558 of this act relating to expenditures and assistantship to preferred contractor's business enterprises have not been met by a licensee, the commission may suspend or revoke the casino license, fine or impose appropriate conditions on the licensee, ensure that the goals for expenditures and assignments are preferred contractor's business enterprises except that if a determination has failed to demonstrate noncompliance within which to those sections.

Section 560. Unified certification contractor's business enterprises

The Department of Labor and the Casino Control Commission shall develop a unified certification contractor's business enterprises on contracts casino licensees on contracts.

Section 561. List of certification challenge of designated contractor's business enterprises

The Department of Labor and the Casino Control Commission shall develop a list of those preferred contractor's business enterprises which it has annually review the list annually preferred contractor's business enterprises to be certified. The division whereby the designation



The above Bill is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 8th day of May, A.D., 1995.

Roy L. Schneider
Governor



The Journey of Act 6069

VIRGIN ISLANDS SESSION LAWS

1995

Received at the Legislative Desk April 12, 1995. Introduced, read by title and assigned to the Committee of the Whole April 12, 1995. Reported, read in full and Adopted April 25, 1995. Transmitted to the Governor May 5, 1995. Approved May 8, 1995. Re-transmitted to the Governor with all Amendments October 25, 1995. Approved November 3, 1995.

Bill No. 21-0028 (Act No. 6073)—To posthumously honor, commend and thank Charles Daniel Lenhardt for his dedicated service to the Govern-

Development Secretary's 1995 Commemorative Act. Proposed by Senator Almando "Rocky" Liburd (By Request) Received at the Legislative Desk April 3, 1995. Introduced, read by title and assigned to the Committee on Finance April 3, 1995. Reported, read in full and Adopted May 3, 1995. Transmitted to the Governor May 9, 1995. Approved May 10, 1995. (Line Item Veto Section 2 (a) (b) (c), Section 3 and Section 4)

Bill No. 21-0027 (Act No. 6069)—To establish the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995. Proposed by Senator Adelbert M. Bryan.

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Bill and assigned to the Committee on Economic Development. Reported, read in full and Adopted July 18, 2001. Transmitted to the Governor July 26, 2001. Approved August 2, 2001.

Bill No. 24-0046 (ACT NO. 6419) — To enact the "United States Virgin Islands Technology Initiative", to amend title 32, chapter 21, Virgin Islands Code, to provide for a new Article XIV to license internet gaming and internet gambling in the Territory; to further amend title 32, section 246, Virgin Islands Code to provide for an internet lottery; and for other purposes related thereto. Proposed by Senators Almando "Rocky" Liburd and Vargrave A. Richards. Received at the Legislative Desk March 27, 2001. Introduced, read by title and assigned to the Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture and Consumer Protection March 27, 2001. Reported, read in full and Adopted July 18, 2001. Transmitted to the Governor July 26, 2001. Approved August 2, 2001.

Bill No. 24-0047 — To amend title 29, chapter 12, section 708 and title 33, chapter 3, section 42, Virgin Islands Code, to require that

Bill and assigned to the Committee on Economic Development. Reported, read in full and Adopted July 18, 2001. Transmitted to the Governor July 26, 2001. Approved August 2, 2001.

Bill No. 24-0046 (ACT NO. 6419) — To enact the "United States Virgin Islands Technology Initiative", to amend title 32, chapter 21, Virgin Islands Code, to provide for a new Article XIV to license internet gaming and internet gambling in the Territory; to further amend title 32, section 246, Virgin Islands Code to provide for an internet lottery; and for other purposes related thereto. Proposed by Senators Almando "Rocky" Liburd and Vargrave A. Richards. Received at the Legislative Desk March 27, 2001. Introduced, read by title and assigned to the Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture and Consumer Protection March 27, 2001. Reported, read in full and Adopted July 18, 2001. Transmitted to the Governor July 26, 2001. Approved August 2, 2001.

Bill No. 24-0047 — To amend title 29, chapter 12, section 708 and title 33, chapter 3, section 42, Virgin Islands Code, to require that

From Concept to Law



V.I.'S GAMBLE ON GAMING

May 8, 1995 — Gov. Roy Schneider signs the V.I. Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995 into law.

Aug. 15, 1995 — Territorial Court Judge Alphonso Andrews refuses to issue a temporary restraining order nullifying St. Croix's casino gambling law after Bryan says the bill signed by Schneider omitted important changes.

Sept. 26, 1995 — Andrews rules the act illegal because Schneider did not sign the same bill that was approved by the Senate. The errors included the omission of Bryan's controversial definition of a "native Virgin Islander."

Nov. 3, 1995 — Schneider signs into law a corrected version of the bill but leaves intact the controversial definition of a native Virgin Islander.

January 1996 — Schneider's brother-in-law Michael Watson, Imelda Dizon, Joan Thomas, Oscar Henry and Dennis Brown become the first Casino Control Commission members.

Feb. 7, 1996 — Schneider nominates retired Territorial Court Judge Eileen Petersen as commission chairwoman. Her nomination is confirmed by the Senate.

Feb. 28, 1996 — The Senate votes, 9-6, to amend the law to change the definition of a native Virgin Islander to an "aboriginal," or anyone who can trace their direct Virgin Islands ancestry back to 1927. Bryan had defined the term as any person born in the Virgin Islands prior to 1927, any person who is an offspring of a parent born in the territory before 1927 or any person born outside the Virgin

Islands to native parents who were off-island studying abroad, employed abroad or in active military service.

May 2, 1996 — Casino Control Commission holds its first public meeting, adopts a code of ethics and elects officers.

Sept. 1996 — Realtor Jan Hanley withdraws her nomination as a commission member, reportedly because of threats against her life.

Dec. 2, 1998 — Casino Control Commission grants the first two-year license to Treasure Bay V.I. Corp. and Grapetree Shores to operate a Tier IV business — 150 to 199 rooms — which will be called the Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino.

Sept. 27, 1999 — After several

delays, the Hospitality Training School is opened for casino school registration. Classes begin Oct. 1.

Oct. 29, 1999 — Divi Carina Bay Resort opens. Casino is scheduled to open in mid-December.

Nov. 17, 1999 — Hurricane Lenny sweeps through the island, damaging the casino and delaying opening from December to March.

March 14, 2000 — Gov. Charles Turnbull applies scissors to a huge red ribbon in the official opening ceremony at Divi.

March 17, 2000 — Crucians and visitors ante up as the Divi casino is off and running.

Junior Martinez smooths out a ballaster for the casino's entrance.

V.I.'S GAMBLE ON GAMING

The history of the Virgin Islands' effort to open casinos:

June 22, 1992 — The Senate's Economic Development Committee, as it was then called, was at the forefront of the casino movement, in economic brainstorming sessions, hoteliers and businesspeople testified that casino gambling would boost the St. Croix economy.

July 25, 1994 — Cruise ships are allowed to open their casinos while docked at St. Croix. Gov. Alexander Farrelly allowed the bill, sponsored by Sen. Kenneth Mapp and Sen. Holland Redfield II, to become law without his signature. It was called the Casino Control Act of 1994, and only cruise passengers were allowed to gamble.



Ruben Martinez puts finishing touches on the parking lot.

Nov. 3, 1994 — St. Croix voters approve a nonbinding referendum for casinos by 56 percent.

Jan. 30, 1995 — Sen. Osbert Potter, chairman of the Senate Economic Development Committee, postpones public hearings on casino gambling for

St. Croix to give senators a chance to study major changes proposed for the Casino Control Act of 1994, sponsored by then-Sen. Gerard Luz James II. James' bill would legalize casino gambling on St. Croix "as an incentive for tourism-related development."

Feb. 22, 1995 — V.I. senators beat back attempts to legalize gambling on St. Thomas as James' bill proposed. The action came during the Senate Economic Development and Agriculture Committee's first day of working on James' bill to legalize casino gambling on St. Croix. After adopting a slew of amendments and rejecting a few, the committee held the bill for at least 10 days while legal counsel worked on even more

amendments. Sen. Adel "Bert" Bryan requested bill be postponed until after the preparation of extension amendments.

March 17, 1995 — Bryan's casino gaming bill that his definition of "native Islander" as someone who trace his or her V.I. ancestry to 1927. The bill requires that more than 50 percent of hotel in Tier IV, those with 20 rooms, must be owned by Virgin Islanders. The definition provokes prolonged public controversy.

April 11, 1995 — In an undeveloped, the Senate Committee tables James' gambling bill, then turns to Bryan's mammoth 284-page substitute amendment.



Who We Are

The **Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission (VICCC)** has the authority to license and regulate legalized casino gambling and related businesses within the casino zones on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands and internet gambling throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands. Pursuant to V.I. Code Ann. tit. 32, § 404, the VICCC is an independent agency of the executive branch of the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and is comprised of three full-time members addressed as Commissioners. Each member must be a citizen of the United States of America, and two must be residents of the St. Croix district and one a resident of St. Thomas-St. John district. No person holding elective or appointive office in the federal or territorial government is eligible to serve as a member. Each member is appointed for a five-year term and no member may serve more than two consecutive full terms.

Appointments to the VICCC and the designation of the VICCC Chairman are made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. The Chairman is also the Chief Executive Officer and holds that office throughout the member's entire term and until a successor has been appointed and qualified. Each member serves for the duration of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualified, subject to a 120-day limitation after the expiration of the member's term. A member can be removed from office only through an action filed by the Attorney General of the Virgin Islands in the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands on the grounds of misconduct, willful neglect of duty, other conduct evidencing unfitness, or for incompetence. An appointment to fill a vacancy is for the unexpired term of the member to be replaced.

The VICCC is aided in its work by the Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) established within the Virgin Islands Department of Justice. The DGE is responsible for investigating licensure applications, enforcing the gambling statutes and rules and regulations, and prosecuting before the VICCC all proceedings for violations of the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995, as codified at 32 V.I.C. § 401 et seq. The DGE is under the immediate supervision of a Director who must be a sworn Assistant Attorney General. The Director is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands and serves during the term of office of the Governor. The Attorney General is responsible for the exercise of all duties and powers assigned to the DGE and can remove the Director for cause upon notice and opportunity to be heard.

The stability, continuity, and success of the gambling industry is inextricably linked to the public's confidence and trust that the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands will ensure that those involved in the industry possess good character, honesty, and integrity. Stewardship over that public confidence and trust is a principal responsibility of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission.

Our Mission



The **Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission** is statutorily mandated to develop and implement a licensing and regulatory framework that permits and promotes the stability and continuity of the gambling and gaming industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands of casinos pursuant to the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995, as amended, of internet gaming and gambling pursuant to the Virgin Islands Internet Gaming and Internet Gambling Act, as amended, and of racinos pursuant to the Virgin Islands Horse Racing Industry Assistance Acts of 2011 and 2016, as amended, by assuring the good character, honesty and integrity of all licensed operators and employees and related businesses; by protecting the gambling and gaming industry from the influence of criminal activity; and by fostering public confidence and trust in the activities of the gambling and gaming industry.





**Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission
Eileen Ramona Petersen Casino Control Commission Building**

3005 Orange Grove

Christiansted, VI 00820

Telephone: 340-718-3616 ★ Fax: 340-718-3136

Email: info@casinocontrolcommission.vi

Website: www.casinocontrolcommission.vi

*From the desk of
Linda I. Smith, Executive Director*

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Media Contact: Linda I. Smith

Monday, February 13, 2025

Email: lsmith@casinocontrolcommission.vi

**VIRGIN ISLANDS CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
RECEIVES SECOND CONSECUTIVE UNMODIFIED AUDIT REPORT**

(St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands) – The Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission (“Commission”) announces that it has received an unmodified financial audit report from Bert Smith & Co., a licensed public accounting firm in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands, for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2022. This marks the second consecutive year the Commission has achieved this outstanding milestone, underscoring its unwavering commitment to excellence, transparency, and sound financial management.

An unmodified or unqualified audit report is considered one of the highest assurances of an organization’s integrity and accountability. “Achieving this status for two consecutive fiscal years is a testament to the dedication, consistency, and exceptional efforts of the Commission’s Executive Staff,” said Marvin L. Pickering, VICCC Chairman and CEO.

As was reported for both FY 2021 and FY 2022, the Commission’s sole audit finding was the lack of a written formal policy for reviewing and approving transactions. However, the report notes that “while we did not find any illegitimate transactions, we believe that formalized policies and procedures are key to the prevention and



detection of errors and fraud.” In response, the Commission is in the final stages of implementing a comprehensive formal accounting policy that will ensure all transactions undergo thorough review and approval. This policy will strengthen the Commission’s financial management practices and set a solid foundation for future operations.

Chairman Pickering further stated that “this is a collective achievement that we at the Commission, including our Casino Inspectors, can all be applauded for because it took team effort. I am both proud and inspired by what we have accomplished together, and I look forward to similar results when the FY 2023 audit report is completed. We remain dedicated to regaining and maintaining the public trust and confidence in our agency to fulfill its mandate to honestly and effectively license and regulate the casino industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

“The Commission will continue to prioritize transparency and accountability in all operations, setting new benchmarks for financial management excellence. That is our firm commitment,” concluded Chairman Pickering.

For further information, contact Linda I. Smith, VICCC Executive Director, at lsmith@casinocontrolcommission.vi or (340) 718-3616.

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Responsible Gaming Education Month

September is Responsible Gaming Education Month, a time when the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission joins the American Gaming Association, the premier national trade group for the U.S. casino industry, and other partners, in promoting awareness and education of responsible gaming. The Commission emphasizes the importance of fostering a safe, informed and responsible gaming environment for all patrons. The key principles of responsible gaming are:

- 1. Set a budget and stick to it.**
- 2. Keep it social and keep it fun.**
- 3. Know the game and know the odds.**
- 4. Don't chase losses.**
- 5. Play with trusted, licensed operators.**

The U.S. casino industry is a strong supporter of independent academic research on responsible gaming and problem gambling treatment and has contributed \$10 million in the last five years to these efforts. The funds are used to develop and implement responsible play practices and to train employees to monitor and assist patrons who require assistance. The industry makes this investment because it recognizes that problem gambling results in significant societal and economic harm. As of December 2023, problem gambling in the U.S. had an estimated cost of \$8 billion annually in criminal justice and healthcare spending, job loss, bankruptcy, and other adverse consequences. Most of the \$100 million spent in 2024 to combat problem gambling came from taxes paid by the casino industry.

Since the enactment of the Virgin Islands Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995, the Commission has established an effective framework for the legal casino industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our casino operators are an important component of the local economy as they create hundreds of jobs and generate substantial tax revenues used to support schools, hospitals and health care facilities, sports and youth programs, and other public services, thereby relieving the general fund of a portion of those costs and enhancing the life of all Virgin Islanders. These casino operators also promote responsible gaming by disseminating information through on-site signage and media advertising and by training their employees in problem gambling awareness.

The Commission receives one percent (1%) of the annual taxes of approximately \$2.4 million paid on gross revenues by legal operators to fund programs to treat and prevent gambling addiction. The Commission has directed these monies and other significant resources toward a variety of initiatives, including strengthening the Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program; launching www.playwisevi.org, a website on responsible gaming and problem gambling disorder information; entering a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virgin Islands Department of Health to fund the training and certification of counselors employed with the Behavioral Health Division in the prevention and treatment of gambling addiction; and on June 4, 2025, in Nashville, TN, at the annual conference of the North American Gaming Regulators Association, a national nonprofit group of gaming regulators exchanging regulatory information and techniques, presenting a panel showcasing the Commission's efforts to build culturally sensitive outreach programs. Over the years, we have been assisted in delivering our



responsible gaming messages through appearances on *Analyze This* hosted by former senator Neville James on WTJX FM radio; *Pass It On* hosted by former senator Roosevelt David on WSTA AM radio; and the *Big Phat Morning Show* on Isle 95 FM radio. We have had guest editorials published in *The Virgin Islands Daily News* and our signage and other material posted and distributed by our licensees at the casinos. We thank all of them for understanding the importance of making sure the gambling public in the U.S. Virgin Islands remains educated and aware of responsible gaming.

As the Commission celebrates its 30th anniversary and moves boldly into the 21st Century with the work begun at the Internet Gaming and Internet Gambling Summit held on July 31, 2025, for the realization of internet gaming in the Territory, we remain committed to responsible gaming education. The Honorable Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. stated in his proclamation dated August 26, 2025, recognizing September 2025 as Responsible Gaming Education Month, “[t]he Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission, as the licensing and regulatory authority for the local casino industry, is committed to promoting responsible gaming education because the industry’s long term success depends on informed, responsible, educated players who view gambling as a form of entertainment.” The Commission stands firm on that commitment. *We encourage Virgin Islanders and visitors alike to continue patronizing the casinos licensed and regulated by the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission, and to always Game Responsibly!*

GUEST EDITORIAL
MARVIN L. PICKERING, CHAIRMAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VIRGIN ISLANDS CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025



Celebrating 30 Years of Regulatory Excellence:



Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future





Judge Eileen R. Petersen

EILEEN R. PETERSEN, late Judge of the Virgin Islands Territorial Court, was the first woman to serve as a Judge in the United States Virgin Islands. She served in the courts from 1971 to 1994.

Judge Petersen was born on St. Croix, Virgin Islands and was a graduate of the public school system. She attended Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginia. While at Hampton Institute she was awarded a coveted Ford Foundation, all-expenses-paid, five-year scholarship. She matriculated from Hampton Institute with a Bachelor's degree in Speech Therapy and English. Without interrupting her studies, she went on to attain her Master's degree in Education. Having achieved her degrees at an early age, she returned to St. Croix, where for three years she taught English at

Christiansted High School and at Catholic University of Puerto Rico's Extension Program. Convinced that law was her calling, in 1963 she enrolled at Howard University's School of Law in Washington, D.C.

She was admitted to practice law in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Judge Petersen accepted the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Virgin Islands under the revered and brilliant Attorney General, Honorable Francisco Corneiro. Judge Petersen also served as Acting Attorney General. In 1969, she returned to Washington, D.C. to pursue courses towards a Master's degree in Labor Law at George Washington University Law Center.

Judge Petersen had always pursued projects to enhance the civil rights of children. As a forceful and articulate advocate for children's rights, she journeyed to Washington, D.C. to lobby for the selection of the Virgin Islands as one of three sites for the pilot project for Operation Sisters United – a project designed to assist troubled female teenagers. She travelled extensively throughout the world to



First Chairman of the CCE



lecture on civil and children's rights. In 1983, she was selected as a panelist for the International Family Law Conference held in Cairo, Egypt. In 1990 she was chairman of the panel on Family Law at the World Peace Through Law Conference held in Beijing, China. Judge Petersen had also travelled to the Philippines, Canada, and throughout the Caribbean to participate in children's rights conferences.

Judge Petersen joined her female counterparts in such organizations as the League of Women Voters, the Business and Professional Women's Organization, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was the first female to be selected to the Virgin Islands Council of Boy Scouts of America, and, accordingly, was the first woman in the northeast region of the United States to hold such a position. Her professional affiliations included Virgin Islands Bar Association, National Bar Association, D.C. Bar Association, American Bar Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, American Judges Association, and National Council of Juvenile Court Judges. She served as past Secretary to the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association and as a panelist for the World Association of National Bar Association. As Chairman of the Casino Control Commission, her affiliations also included the North American Regulators Association and the International Association of Gaming Regulators.

The essence of Judge Petersen's life is best personified through her immeasurable contributions to the courts, the bar associations and the Virgin Islands' community. Her acute sensitivity, keen insight, awareness of the plight of the downtrodden, her love for children and her compassionate spirit, coupled with her radiant personality, have earned her numerous awards, citations, and commendations, including the distinguished William H. Hastie and Thurgood Marshall awards presented by the National Bar Association and the Image Award by the National Association for U.S. Virgin Islands Affairs in New York. In July 2008, she was also inducted in the National Bar Association Hall of Fame. Her unsuccessful bid for Delegate to Congress did not dampen her trailblazing nature.

In 1996 she was appointed by the Governor of the Virgin Islands and confirmed by the Virgin Islands Legislature as the first Chairman of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission.





State of New Jersey

PHIL MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
TENNESSEE AVENUE AND BOARDWALK
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

JAMES T. PLOUSIS
Chairman

ALISA BETH COOPER
JOYCE MOLLINEAUX
Commissioners

(609) 441-3422

Via electronic and First-Class Mail

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Marvin L. Pickering, Chairman
Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission
3005 Orange Grove
Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00820

Dear Chairman Pickering:

On behalf of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission, please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of your Commission's first Chairman, the Honorable Eileen R. Petersen.

In recognition of Chairman Petersen's considerable legacy and the working partnership created between our agencies initiated under her leadership, a Resolution honoring the memory of Chairman Petersen was unanimously adopted by the Commission at today's public meeting. The original signed Resolution is enclosed.

Again, we are deeply sorry for your loss. During this difficult time, please know that our thoughts are with you and your colleagues, Chairman Petersen's family, and the many people whose lives Chairman Petersen positively impacted through her years of service.

Sincerely,

James T. Plousis, Chairman

c: Alisa B. Cooper, Vice Chair
Joyce Mollineaux, Commissioner
Dianna W. Fauntleroy, General Counsel/Executive Secretary



New Jersey Casino Control Commission Resolution No. 23-05-17-22

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE EILEEN R. PETERSEN, FIRST
CHAIRMAN OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, in 1996, the late Honorable Eileen R. Petersen was appointed
as the first Chairman of the newly
Commission by Governor Roy Schnei
term in 2000 by Governor Charles W

WHEREAS, the late Honorable
with the New Jersey Casino Control
Islands Casino Control Commission
develop rules and compliance st
industry;

WHEREAS, the late Honorable
highest level of personal integ
duties and responsibilities a
Commission thereby enhanc
of casino gaming throughou

Resolution No. 23-05-17-22
Page 2

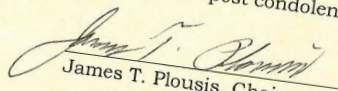


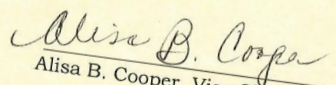
WHEREAS, her passion, professionalism, tenacity and wisdom earned her
the praise, respect and admiration of her colleagues and the entire casino gaming
community;

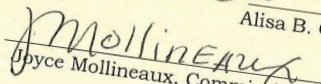
WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to commend the late Honorable
Eileen R. Petersen for her noteworthy contributions to the proper regulation of
casino gaming and her invaluable service to the casino gaming industry during
her distinguished tenure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Casino
Control Commission and its staff hereby offer its heartfelt condolences to the
family, friends and colleagues of the Honorable Eileen R. Petersen and expresses
it gratitude for her contributions to the regulation of casino gaming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be placed in the record
as a commemoration of our admiration of the late Honorable Eileen R. Petersen
and of our deepest condolences on her passing.


James T. Plousis, Chairman


Alisa B. Cooper, Vice Chairman


Joyce Mollineaux, Commissioner





VJ Casino Control Commission

CHAIRPERSONS

Eileen R. Petersen*	1996 - 2009
Gizette L. Canegata Thomas	2009 - 2012
Violette Anne Golden	2014 - 2019
Marvin L. Pickering	2020 -

COMMISSIONERS

Imelda N. Dizon	1996 - 2003
Dennis A. Brow	1996 - 1999
Oscar E. Henry*	1996 - 1997
Michael A. Watson	1996 - 1999
Joan A. Thomas	1996 - 1999
Lloyd M. McAlpin*	1999 - 2009
Devin F. Carrington	2004 - 2009
Violette Anne Golden	2014 - 2019
Roderick E. Moorehead, Sr., Ph.D.	2011 - 2016
Henry C. Richardson	2011 - 2016
Usie R. Richards	2016 - 2022
Stacy A. Bourne	2018 - 2021
Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell	2022 -
Luther F. Renee	2023 -

*Deceased

Our Team



COMMISSIONERS

Marvin L. Pickering, *Chairman / Chief Executive Officer*
Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell, *Vice Chair / Commissioner*
Luther F Renee, *Secretary / Treasurer / Commissioner*

STAFF

Kelvin L. Vidale, Esq., *Legal Counsel*
Linda I. Smith, *Executive Director*
Ruthlin A. Hurtault, *Licensing & Compliance Officer*
Romesha D. Smith, *Finance and Human Resources Administrator*
Odingo Davila, *IT Support Specialist*
Daren H. O'Reilly, *Archive Specialist*
Claridilia Rodriguez de Garcia, *Custodian*

INSPECTORS

Masai Henry, *Senior Casino Inspector*
Juan Luis Jr., *Casino Inspector II*
Roberto Blewett, *Casino Inspector I*
Karissa Daniel, *Casino Inspector I*



Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission Casino Inspectors



Highlights

*Celebrating 30 Years of Regulatory Excellence:
Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future*

November 3, 1995	Enactment of Act No. 6069, the Virgin Islands Casino Resort and Control Act of 1995
April 1996	Opening of the Virgin Islands Casino Control, Commission Office at 3005 Orange Grove, Christiansted, VI 00820
March 14, 2000	Opening of the Divi Carina Bay Casino
July 18, 2001	Enactment of Act No. 6419, the Virgin Islands Internet Gaming and Internet Gambling Act
June 20, 2007	Issuance of a license to Traxco, Inc. to operate a casino at the Randall "Doc" James Racetrack
April 26, 2016	Opening of the Caravelle Casino
September 4, 2018	V.I. Office of the Inspector General issues Audit Report of the administrative functions of the Virgin Islands Casino Commission
October 20, 2021	Renaming of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission Building to the Eileen Ramona Petersen Casino Control Commission Building
February 28, 2023	Proclamation by the Honorable Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. designating the month of March as Problem Gaming Awareness Month
December 15, 2023	Issuance of an Unmodified Financial Audit Report from Bert Smith & Co., a licensed public accounting firm in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands for Fiscal Year 2021



August 1, 2024

Launch of *PlayWiseVI.org*, a website providing information on responsible gaming and problem gambling

October 24, 2024

Execution of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Virgin Islands Casino Commission and the Virgin Islands Department of Health for the training and certification of locally-based problem gambling addiction counselors

January 23, 2025

Issuance of an Unmodified Financial Audit Report from Bert Smith & Co., a licensed public accounting firm in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands for Fiscal Year 2022

June 4, 2025

Presentation of “We Have A Story To Tell: The Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission And The Building Of Culturally Adapted Problem Gambling Awareness Initiatives” at the 2025 Annual Training and Education Conference, North American Gaming Regulators Association, in Nashville, Tennessee. The panel was moderated by Marvin L. Pickering, VICCC Chairman/CEO and included Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell, VICCC Commissioner, and Kelvin L. Vidale, Esq., VICCC Legal Counsel

July 31, 2025

Hosting of Internet Gaming and Internet Gambling Summit that brought together government leaders, policy makers, stakeholders and other interested persons in discussions for the modernization of the internet statutes

August 20, 2025

Proclamation by the Honorable Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. designating the month of September as Responsible Gaming Education Month



Celebrating 30 Years of Regulatory Excellence:

CASINO CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Senator backs Schneider's pick for casino chairwoman

said, "I am very excited about her nomination."

"Being a judge who will bring honesty and integrity to the commission, and I know she can't be bribed."

But Belardo said Petersen must go through the same procedures for confirmation as all other governor's appointments.

"She must have all her documents in order before she will be confirmed," Belardo said.

Kevin Ramos, president of the Chamber of Commerce and an ardent supporter of casino gambling, also praised the governor's choice.

"Judge Petersen distinguished herself on the bench as a person of integrity," Ramos said.

"She is a trailblazer in her career, the first black female to become a Territorial Court judge."

"This nomination is a step in the right direction for the commission, and it is a step in the right direction for the island."

Sen. Vincent Gordon, who heads the Commerce Committee, praised Petersen as a trustworthy individual but urged her not to accept the position until she has been confirmed.

Eileen Petersen
Occupational Therapy
Court Judge
Education: Bachelor's
degree, English and
speech therapy, master's
degree, education, Hamp-
ton University, Hampton,
Virginia; Howard University,
Washington, D.C.
Professional experience: Judge
for 22 years; assistant U.S.
attorney general; lecturer,
teacher, legal secretary.

"She is a role model for many people, and she has confirmed her status as a person of integrity."

"The table says she should work for a living, and gambling is not a living, and gambling is not a job, and gambling is not a career."

"Five members of the commission have been confirmed by the Senate, and we are working on the rest."

The commission elected Linda Dumas as vice chairwoman, and she has been leading the body pending the appointment and confirmation of the other members.

This (the nomination) is now a unique challenge and opportunity for her to lead all of us in developing a successful casino interest for the island.

The governor did not disclose details of his proposed nominees.

Under the casino law, the governor sets the salary of casino members, Dixon said.

The salary range is from \$60,000 to \$100,000 for the chairman, and other members receiving \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Petersen served 20 years as a regular judge, but stayed on the bench two more years as a retired judge without additional pay.

She ran for delegate to Congress as a Democrat in 1994, after losing to the Republican incumbent, Sen. Dan Claitor.

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Ex-judge chosen to head casino commission

By WILL JONES
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Former Territorial Court Judge Eileen Petersen, who practically disappeared from public life after her loss in the 1994 delegate to Congress race, is on her way back to a highly visible government position.

Gov. Roy L. Schneider on Friday nominated Petersen as the chairwoman

and seventh member of the Casino Control Commission, which will oversee casino gambling on St. Croix.

Petersen said she was delighted to be nominated to the commission.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve the community in any capacity," she said. "I will bring honesty and integrity to the commission, just as I did as a judge and would have as a delegate to Congress."

Schneider submitted Petersen's nomination to the Senate with a recommendation that her confirmation be "expeditiously" considered.

And the chairwoman of the Senate Rules Committee, which will consider the nomination before it goes to the full Senate, plans to do just that.

Sen. Lillian Belardo of O'Neal said Friday night that she had already given Petersen the necessary forms to complete for a committee hearing.

Belardo said she will schedule a confirmation hearing as soon as Petersen provides all of the required information, including a background check.

If other senators share Belardo's views, Petersen will sail through confirmation.

"She is an excellent choice," Belardo said. **See CASINO, page 2**



Eileen Petersen

Virgin Islands

The Daily News, Monday, November 13, 2000

Casino Control Commission to hold online gambling seminar

Internet gaming seminar

ST. CROIX — The Casino Control Commission will hold an online gambling seminar for the first time on St. Croix.

The seminar, which will be held on St. Croix, is the first of a series of seminars that the commission will hold throughout the island.

The seminar will be held on St. Croix, and it is the first of a series of seminars that the commission will hold throughout the island.

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Attorneys top list of Internet gaming seminar panelists

The panelists for the Casino Control Commission's seminar on Internet gaming will be top attorneys in the field.

The panelists for the seminar will be top attorneys in the field, and they will discuss the legal aspects of Internet gaming.

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CASINO CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Business puts downpayment on Frederiksted property

ing, began slipping in the early 1970s. The 1972 Fountain Valley Golf Course, which was built on the site of the old hotel, was killed on what was then the Fountain Valley Golf Course. It closed in the mid-'70s.

Rektor Jan Hansen, who is handling the deal, said the Petrovians have rented three Estate Carlton condos and have purchased two more for the 12 construction supervisors who'll work under Vahag Petrovian to rebuild the Carlton Hotel.

There are reports that the old golf course will be converted to an 18-hole pitch-and-putt course, as a Japanese group of investors project-



Daily News Map by STEVE ROOSTER

tainment Corp. said that a business plan has been submitted to the casino board but a formal application has not been submitted for a casino license.

"Mr. Petrovian certainly has an interest in the development of a casino on the island. However, it would be a premature conjecture to assume that a license will be granted," Salazar said.

The group may apply for a license to the Casino Control Commission within 30 days after completion of the sale.

The Carlton property is in Tier Two, so it doesn't face major Coastal Zone Management hurdles, and the hotel permit probably

would be for remodeling, which shouldn't take as long as a permit for new construction.

Vahag Petrovian in late August said that if things go as planned, 200 to 250 people will be employed to remodel and landscape the Carlton property.

He said his older brother's two casinos were in Moscow and in a smaller city two hours by plane east of Moscow.

Vahag Petrovian said he's spent most of the last 20 years managing his brother's two Russian casinos, adding that his brother now wants to sell them because of the "political situation."

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Virgin Islands

Officials promise concessions for Jackson's casino project

By CHRISTINE LOTT
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Newspapers from New York to Chicago already have reported that Sen. Michael Jackson, who is running for Congress, has promised to build a casino on St. Croix.

But to government officials, the promise is just the tip of the iceberg of a much larger project.

The project, which is being led by Michael Jackson, is a multi-phase project that will include a casino, a hotel, and a shopping center.

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Michael Jackson, with wife and children, visits St. Croix.

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Virgin Islands

arts explain how V.I. could benefit from Internet gambling

By FAYE

ST. CROIX — Gambling industry officials are explaining how the Virgin Islands could benefit from Internet gambling.

Internet gambling is a new form of gambling that allows people to gamble from their homes.

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Virgin Islands

Friday, November 17, 2000, The Daily News

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Casino deal in the works

By WILLIAM STEIF
Special To The Daily News

ST. CROIX — A Los Angeles entrepreneur has made a \$300,000 down payment to buy 80 acres of Estate Carlton near Frederiksted for what could be the first casino-hotel on the island.

The hotel is planned for the 150- to 200-room category, and the down payment on the \$2.1 million price tag is non-refundable.

The buyer is Robert Petrovian, whose International Entertainment Corp., based in Northridge, Calif., has interests in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe, Nev.

Petrovian was on St. Croix last week with U.S. Rep. Mervyn Dymally, D-Calif., who is assisting him. They stayed at the Frederiksted Hotel. Petrovian also is being assisted by his brother, Vahag, who is occupying a condo with his family at Coakley Bay on the East End.

Overall, estimates for the hotel-casino construction costs run from \$50 million to \$100 million.

Selling the property is Pax Holdings Inc., whose principal investors are residents John McCallum and Robin Reed. Included in the sale are the remains of the old Carlton Hotel and a long-used nine-hole golf course.

Access to the seaside Carlton Beach Club presumably would be included in the deal.

The acreage lies between Queen Mary Highway and Melvin Evans Highway and the old hotel, which opened in the mid-1950s and was St. Croix's first upscale resort.

The hotel, which had 110 rooms when it was flourishing, **See CASINO, page 2**

Casino board gets busy

OKs \$1.2M budget, adopts ethics code

By WILL JONES
Daily News Staff

MAY 3 - 1995

ST. CROIX — The Casino Control Commission, in its first official public meeting Thursday, adopted a code of ethics, approved a \$1.2 million budget and hired a New Jersey law firm to help draft rules and regulations for casino gambling.

The commission also approved a lease for an office building in Orange Grove, adopted by-laws and procedures to hire an executive secretary and other employees, elected officers and appointed standing committees.

The ethics code requires commissioners and staff members to avoid all impropriety and appearance of impropriety.

"He (a commissioner or employee) must expect to be the subject of constant public scrutiny," a commentary in the code said. "He must therefore accept restrictions on his conduct that might be viewed as burdensome by the ordinary citizen and should do so freely and willingly."

Commission chairwoman Eileen Petersen said the code is a guide to prevent members from listening to the wrong people.

"It's our Bible to live by," Petersen said, adding that as a former Territorial Court judge, she is used to her activities being restricted.

Other members called the code tough, but said they could abide by them.

"It tells us what we can and can't do," vice chairwoman Imelda Majera Dizon said.

"I'm glad the attorneys who drafted this are not my father," she said.

Commissioner Dennis Brow said the code is the strictest he has ever had to live by.

Commissioner Michael Watson, who was elected treasurer, said the commission will operate on a \$1.2 million budget through Sept. 30.

He said the Legislature, in approving the Casino and Resort Control Act authorizing casinos in hotels on St. Croix, approved a \$2.5 million annual budget, but that

- ▼ See CASINO, page 5
- ▼ Who on commission gets what title, page 5
- ▼ Ethics code provisions, page 5

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Business

66¢

Monday, December 11, 2000, The Daily News

Market St. Croix as gaming destination, Petersen urges

By EUNICE BEDMINSTER
Daily News Staff



Eileen Petersen

ST. CROIX — Casino Commission Chairwoman Eileen Petersen said the initial success of the Virgin Islands with the casino industry could be increased tenfold were there an agency charged with marketing St. Croix as a gaming destination.

Petersen, at the December meeting of the Casino Control

Commission, said that while the commission has accomplished a much without a marketing campaign, the island isn't getting the economic boost it could. "Gaming is international, and we need to tap that market. It is now

critical that the advertising of investing in St. Croix is showcased," she said.

Petersen said she will press for a marketing plan that extols St. Croix's pro-business environment, the Industrial Development Commission benefits and the fact that investors would be doing business under the American flag.

Acting Tourism Commissioner Monique Sibilly-Hodge was off-island and unavailable for comment on Petersen's proposal. A Tourism employee said Pamela Richards, assistant Tourism commissioner for St. Croix, would return a call for comment, but Richards did not.

In other discussions, Petersen said:

- A slow turnaround with money is hampering the commission's efforts to do its job adequately. She also said that because of a lack of funding, the commission is unable to provide in-service training for employees, which is critical with ever-increasing technological advances.

- The commission is in constant discussions with Golden Gaming, the latest company to apply for a

casino gaming license and that if money were released for the licensing process, "it may lead to a third casino license before the end of this year."

She said the lack of money is hampering investigative procedures that go into license approval. By law, the commission has received \$100,000 each year to conduct investigations, but despite letters to the Finance Department, it has not been released.

Petersen said given that Golden Gaming paid a nonrefundable and partial payment of \$100,000 for its casino license application "there should be no delay to send the money to us."

uary 9, 1996

Virgin Islands

5 members confirmed to casino commission

By HAL HATFIELD
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Casino gambling on St. Croix continues to inch closer to reality.

The Legislature approved the nominations Monday of five of the seven members of the Casino Control Commission.

The nominations sailed through, even gaining support from senators who previously opposed the bill that legalized gambling.

"I am here to make the best of a bad situation," said Majority Leader Celestino A. White Sr., who led opposition to the bill when it passed in April.

"If it had not been for these indi-

viduals, I would still be shivering. Now I'm a little bit more relaxed."

The only opposition Monday was for Imelda N. Dizon of St. Croix. Sen. Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal voted "no" on Dizon's confirmation and Sen. Judy M. Gomez abstained. Both doubted Dizon's qualifications.

The other four nominees were approved on 13-0 votes with Sens. Alicia "Chucky" Hansen and Gerardo Luján I. absent.

The five confirmed members of the Casino Control Commission are:

- Michael A. Watson, St. Thomas, manager of the Petite Pump Room restaurant. Watson is Gov. Roy L. Schneider's brother-in-law and was nominated to repre-

sent accounting.

- Joan A. Thomas, St. John, a Police Department employee nominated to represent public safety.

- Dennis Brow, a Fire Service employee on St. Croix nominated to represent consumer interests.

- Oscar Henry, a retired St. Croix businessman and federal and territorial government employee nominated to represent environmental interests.

- Dizon, a retired nurse, nominated to represent banking and finance interests.

- A sixth nomination, that of St. Croix Realtor Janice M. Hanley, is on hold in the Rules Committee. Some members are not satisfied that she has severed her ties with Farchette & Hanley Real Estate.

Schneider also has to nominate a seventh member of the commission to serve as chairman.

He originally designated Watson as chairman, but after several senators protested that the position should go to a St. Croix member, Watson withdrew his nomination as chairman.

The five confirmed members did not say Monday whether they will begin work in the absence of a chairman. But Schneider has said investors are waiting and are anxious to get the permit and approval process rolling.

Schneider and St. Croix business people see casino gambling as essential to St. Croix's economic recovery.

Virgin Islands

The Daily News, Wednesday, January 24, 1996 5

Casino commission starts work But won't take action until chairman named

By WILL JONES
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Although it is short two members, the Casino Gaming Commission already is at work on implementing rules and regulations for casino-hotels that will operate here.

Commissioner Imelda Dizon, whom other members Monday elected vice chairwoman, said Tuesday that the commission worked all weekend, setting an agenda for future meetings and assigning each member specific responsibilities.

But Dizon said the commission will not take any official actions until Gov. Roy L. Schneider nominates and the Legislature confirms a permanent chairman.

One item that will be put on hold until a chairman is seated is the selection of an executive director.

Dizon, who also is the temporary official spokeswoman for the commission, said several people have applied for the position.

Schneider met with commissioners Friday and told them he will nominate a Christian attorney to head the panel.

The governor said he gave the

commission requests for information about the casino law from at least 10 potential investors.

Dizon said the commission is reviewing "lots of proposals" for casino developments.

She said Schneider did not give the commissioners any specific directions, because "we know what our job is and we hope to move along quickly," Dizon said.

So far, the commission has consulted with the V.I. Justice Department on legal issues and searched for permanent office space, she said.

The commission's temporary office in Government House in downtown Christiansted is not adequate, Dizon said. Some members are working at home or their private offices.

At least three members — Joan Thomas of St. John, Michael Watson of St. Thomas and Dennis Brow of St. Croix — still are working at their regular jobs, but will be given a transition period to turn over their duties to others and work full-time as commissioners, Dizon said.

The three members still are working full-time for the commission because they are expected to com-

plete their assignments in time for next Tuesday's meeting, Dizon said.

Under the casino law, the chairman of the commission can be paid a salary ranging from \$65,000 to \$105,000, Dizon said.

The other members will receive \$5,000 less than the chairman's salary.

Dizon said that the government hasn't processed the paperwork to place the commissioners on the payroll, but that Schneider promised it will be completed within two weeks.

Schneider will set the salary of each member, Dizon said. She referred further questions about pay to the governor. Government House spokesmen could not be reached after Dizon spoke with The Daily News.

Schneider also urged the Legislature to approve his nomination of Jan Hanley as the sixth member of the commission.

The Senate Rules Committee has held up Hanley's confirmation because of questions on whether she has sold her interest in the family's real estate business.

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Virgin Islands

Wednesday, July 11, 2001, The Daily News

Northeast company applies for St. Croix casino license

By BILLY SHIELDS
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Another company is throwing its chips on the table and applying for a casino license on St. Croix.

Robbin Bay Associates filed a casino license application Monday with the Casino Control Commission, marking the fifth license application the commission has received.

The company, which will do business as the Seven Hills Beach Resort and Casino, is based in Connecticut and New Jersey and owns land on St. Croix's East End, said Casino Control Commission Chairwoman Eileen Petersen.

Like Golden Gaming, which recently was given 12 months to comply with the commission's standards, Robbin Bay Associates has no licensed casino properties, although

one of the principals, attorney Mickey Brown, has a casino license in another jurisdiction. Brown and fellow principals Curtis Robinson and David Kagan are from Connecticut and New Jersey.

Casino Control Commission members would not comment on how much land the company owns, but Petersen said it was hundreds of acres. From the name of the company, presumably the land is off Southshore Road near Robbin Bay.

Robbin Bay Associates plans to construct a 300-room hotel with a minimum of 100 beachfront time share and residential units.

The hotel will include a professionally designed 18-hole golf course, restaurant, shops and a 20,000-square-foot casino. The company announced it also plans to provide job training programs in the construction, hospitality and gaming fields, according to

Five casino license applications await commission action

By BILLY SHIELDS
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Five companies have applied for casino licenses since the forming of the Casino Control Commission with Robbin Bay Associates being the most recent. The following is a breakdown of casino license applications and their current status.

Treasure Bay Gaming & Resorts

- Applied May 26, 1998.
- Granted a license Dec. 2, 1998.
- Now operating Divi Carina Bay Casino.

Blackhawk Gaming and

Development Company

- Applied Nov. 6, 1998.
- Withdrawn application Dec. 2, 1998.

Diamond Lodging and Real Estate Development

- Applied July 9, 1999; application still pending.

Golden Gaming

- Applied Oct. 23, 2000.
- Granted a statute of compliance June 28, 2001.

Robbin Bay Associates

- Applied July 9, 2001.

Treasure Bay operates the territory's only casino, Divi Carina Bay. Blackhawk wanted to

establish a casino in downtown Christiansted but withdrew its application. Diamond Lodging planned to build a hotel and casino in the Sundry Isle area, but at present the project is suspended indefinitely.

Golden Gaming recently announced it will build a 900-room hotel, a golf course, convention space and numerous restaurants as part of the casino package. If granted a license within the 12 months, it has to fulfill its status of compliance.

The Casino Control Commission will hear Robbin Bay's application once the V.I. Justice Department Division of Gaming Enforcement completes its investigation.

"It takes time to build the basic foundation for the casino industry and the commissioners recognize that investors were hesitant to pursue opportunities here until they were fully convinced of our commitment to running a legitimate

operation," Petersen said in the statement.

A hearing on the Robbin Bay Associates application will follow the V.I. Justice Department investigation of the company.

Virgin Islands

NOV 23 1996

Schneider submits 19-page bill to amend Casino Control Act

By HAL HATFIELD
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Gov. Roy L. Schneider has sent the Legislature a 19-page bill to amend the casino gaming law.

In his transmittal letter to Senate President Almando "Rocky" Liburd, Schneider calls the bill "housekeeping amendments to ensure a more investor-friendly atmosphere."

Schneider has said he expects to have a casino operating by the end

of the year.

"This bill would eliminate duplicate zoning procedures, clarify duties and responsibilities between the Casino Commission and the Division of Enforcement, permit a more prudent use of personnel, streamline the work of the commission and provide technical corrections to the tax code to allow for better enforcement by the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue," Schneider said.

The bill has no explanations for any of the amendments and Schneider

does not say whether they need to be enacted before the casino commission begins issuing licenses.

Under normal circumstances the bill would be referred to one of the Legislature's standing committees, probably the Health and Government Operations Committee, and public hearings would be held before sending it on for Rules Committee and floor consideration.

The 21st Legislature will meet in early December, possibly for the last time before adjourning.

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CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

Menu



COCKTAIL HOUR

Red Snapper Fish Cakes | Cilantro Garlic Aioli
Seared Sirloin Skewer | Red Onion Glaze | Blue Cheese Sauce
Sofrito Chicken Tart | Red Pepper Aioli | Cilantro Lime Caviar
Crispy Spinach Quinoa Balls | Beet Hummus | Sofrito Coconut Reduction

APPETIZERS

Amuse-bouche
Roasted Pumpkin Soup
Spiced Pepitas | Toasted Focaccia

Warm Vegetable Salad
Local Sweet Potato Pea Puree | Honey Roasted Carrots | Beets | Asparagus | Shiitakes
Roasted Red Onions | Pumpkin Tuile | Tarragon Oil | Goat Cheese (optional) | Micros
**GF*DF*V*

ENTRÉES

5 Spiced Salmon
Whipped Garlic Mashed Potato | Charred Broccolini
Citrus Beurre Blanc | Microgreens
**GF*
Cilantro Lime Chicken Breast
Cream Cheese Pepper Stuffed | Turmeric Rice | Sauteed Asparagus | Tomato Bechamel
**GF*

Charred Coconut Herb Crusted Lamb
Whipped Garlic Mashed Potato | Charred Broccolini
Citrus Chimichurri Cream | Microgreens

Roasted Cauliflower Steak
Vegan Polenta | Roasted Brussel Sprouts | Pickled Cabbage | Mushroom Cream
**GF*DF*SF*V*

DESSERT

French Fruit Tart
Passion Fruit Pastry Cream | Berries | Strawberry Gelee | Almond Tuile
Edible Gold Leaf
Meringue | Fresh Mint

Vegan Guava Mousse
Avocado | Coconut Whipped Cream
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CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

Message from Division of Gaming Enforcement



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT



MESSAGE FROM R. OLIVER DAVID, DIRECTOR DIVISION OF GAMING ENFORCEMENT

On behalf of the Virgin Islands Department of Justice, Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE), it is indeed a privilege and honor to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission (VICCC) on the celebration of its Thirtieth Anniversary. The Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission, and by extension the people of the Virgin Islands, was blessed when the late Judge, Honorable Eileen R. Petersen, was chosen as the first Chairperson of the Commission.

Judge Petersen brought leadership, credibility, and integrity to the Commission when she embarked upon the task of spearheading and overseeing the drafting and implementation of the Casino Control Commission's rules and regulations. As a result of her leadership, adherence to the law, and a keen understanding of her community, she was able to establish the Virgin Islands as a reputable gaming jurisdiction, and the Casino Control Commission as a respected gaming regulatory entity.

During Judge Petersen's ten (10) plus years as Chairperson of the VICCC, the Commission recognized the role of the Division of Gaming Enforcement, as established pursuant to the V.I. Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995, as an integral part of effective gaming regulation in the Virgin Islands. Although legally the DGE was created as a division within the Virgin Islands Department of Justice, the Casino Control Commission took the lead in continuously and forcefully lobbying for adequate funding and staffing for the DGE. During that period, the VICCC ensured that the DGE received adequate training, and involved the DGE as a partner in all aspects of the gaming industry in the Virgin Islands further enhancing the DGE's ability to perform its statutory functions effectively.

Unfortunately, a few years ago, the reputation of the VICCC, as a credible regulatory entity, lost some of its luster. Fortunately, the current Commission, under the leadership of Chairman Marvin L. Pickering, has done an excellent job in repairing the damage that was done and once again establishing the VICCC as a respected and credible gaming regulatory entity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Oliver David".

R. Oliver David, Esq.
AAG/Director Division of Gaming Enforcement

#213 ESTATE LA REINE • KINGSHILL, ST. CROIX, VI 00850
TEL: (340) 773-0295 • FAX: (340) 773-1425



Message from Former Chairman

Gizette L. Thomas, Esq.

1917 Willow Lake Dr. | Pearland, Texas 77581

(832) 907-2991

gizette.thomas@gmail.com



November 8, 2025

MESSAGE FROM FORMER CHAIRMAN CANEGATA THOMAS

It is with immense pride that I join the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission in celebrating “30 Years of Casino Regulatory Excellence: Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future.”

The enactment of the Virgin Islands gaming law in 1995 laid a solid foundation for this industry, positioning it to serve as an important contributor to the economic vitality of our territory. I extend the highest respect to the visionary legislators and government leaders who had the foresight and courage to establish this framework.

I hold in special regard the inaugural Chairman, the Honorable Eileen R. Petersen, whose steadfast dedication ensured that the administration of the gaming law was executed with the highest standards of excellence and integrity. The legacy we celebrate today has been built upon her leadership and strengthened by the distinguished Commissioners who, through the years, have remained true to those guiding principles.

On this milestone anniversary, I extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Casino Control Commission and the entire Virgin Island community it serves. It is truly a privilege and an honor to be part of this historic and enduring legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gizette L. Thomas".

Gizette L. Thomas, Esq.



Message from Former Commissioner

Commemorative Statement for the 30th Anniversary Commemoration of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission

I am grateful and honored to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Virgin Islands Casino Control commission on the commemoration of their 30th anniversary as the licencing and regulatory authority for the casino industry in the United States Virgin Islands. My heartfelt appreciation is extended to Former Governor Honorable John P. DeJongh for appointing me to serve as a Commissioner of this august entity and to the 29th Legislature of the US Virgin Islands for confirming me.

My tenure with the Commission was from April 2011 to October 2016. Special thanks go out to the Former Chair Gizette Canegata-Thomas, Former Executive Director Debra Audain, Assistant Attorney General and Director of Gaming Enforcement Oliver David and Mr. Darren O'Reilly, Archive Specialist for welcoming me to the agency and making my orientation and on-boarding warm, informative and effective.

I valued my time at the Commission, and I worked relentlessly to earn the trust and respect of my colleagues (in and out of the office), our gaming executives, casino employees, vendors, contractors, potential investors, and very importantly.... our gaming public.

I tried to demonstrate empathy and concern for them by personal counselling and self exclusion discussions. I championed enhanced professional development opportunities and training for casino employees to increase their advancement opportunities in their respective companies. I was always in the office ready and willing to answer the calls, walk-ins or emergency situations.

My best wishes go to Chairman/CEO Marvin L Pickering, Vice Chair, Commissioner Carolyn P. Herman-Percell, Secretary-Treasurer Commissioner Luther F. Renee, Executive Director, Linda F. Smith and the entire Casino Commission staff as you chart your course to face the future challenges of sports betting, online gaming, artificial intelligence and so much more.

Godspeed and continued success!!



Roderick E. Moorehead, Sr. PhD
Commissioner (2011 -2016)





Congratulations

“Celebrating 30 Years of
Casino Regulatory Excellence: Honoring
Our Legacy, Shaping the Future”

With gratitude, I join the Virgin Islands
Casino Control Commission in
commemorating three decades of
principled oversight and public service.
Since the enactment of the Virgin Islands
Casino and Resort Control Act of 1995, the
Commission has upheld a mandate: to
safeguard integrity, promote responsible
gaming and ensure that economic
opportunity flows to the people of the U.S.
Virgin Islands.

This milestone belongs to many hands. It
honors the foresight of our founders: the
diligence of Commissioners and staff; the
partnership of licensees, law enforcement,
and industry stakeholders; and the trust of
our communities. Together we built a
regulatory framework that is fair and
resilient — one that nurtures investment
and protects consumers, while keeping the
public interest at the center.

Stacy A. Bourne
COMMISSIONER
2018 - 2021

A TRIBUTE TO THE CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

On the occasion of this historic milestone, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Casino Control Commission of the U.S. Virgin Islands for three decades of remarkable service. For 30 years, the Commission has exemplified dedication, integrity, and excellence in its stewardship of the gaming industry. Your tireless efforts have not only safeguarded the public interest but have also strengthened our community and contributed to the economic vitality of the Territory.

As one of the first Commissioners — and the youngest to serve at that time — I, Dennis Brow, am deeply honored to have been part of the foundation of this great work. It remains one of the proudest chapters of my life to have helped craft the Casino Control Law and to take part in launching the regulatory framework that began the casino industry in our Virgin Islands.

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for the vision, collaboration, and determination of all those who served alongside me, and for the Commission's enduring commitment to fairness and progress. This anniversary is not only a celebration of your achievements but also a testament to the lasting impact of your work on our community and future generations.

Thank you for your 30 years of tremendous service. It has been a privilege to stand among you in this history-making journey.

Dennis Brow

Commissioner
1996 – 1999

Message from the Dizon Family

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Casino Control Commission on its 30th anniversary. To the commissioners and past leaders who have guided this important work, especially to our beloved mother, Imelda Dizon, whose dedication as Vice-Chairman exemplified integrity, service, and leadership. May the Commission continue to uphold the highest standards of accountability and public trust.

With gratitude and pride,
The Dizon Family

On behalf of
IMELDA N. DIZON
COMMISSIONER | 1996 - 2003

**Happy 30th
Anniversary to the
Casino Control
Commission
from Olivia H. Henry
and family of**

OSCAR E. HENRY
COMMISSIONER
1996 - 1997

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CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

Message from Divi Carina Bay Casino



DIVI CARINA BAY CASINO
ST. CROIX, USVI

November 8, 2025

Hon. Marvin L. Pickering, Chairman/CEO
Carolyn P. Hermon-Percell, Vice Chair
Luther F. Renee, Secretary/Treasurer
V.I. Casino Control Commission
3005 Orange Grove
Christiansted, U.S.V.I. 00820

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Divi Carina Bay Casino, I am honored to extend our sincere congratulations to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission as you celebrate your 30th Anniversary. From the first roll of the dice, the Commission has been a part of our company's journey as the first casino to open in the Virgin Islands, guiding the development of this unique industry in our community.


This milestone marks a significant chapter in the history of gaming in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Over the past three decades, the Commission has played a vital role in shaping the growth of the industry and ensuring its positive contribution to the territory's economy. Your leadership and oversight have provided a strong foundation for responsible gaming.

As a longstanding member of the St. Croix business community, we recognize the importance of this anniversary and the impact the Commission has had in establishing a framework for casino operations in the Virgin Islands. We are proud to have been part of this progress and remain committed to supporting the continued success of our industry.

We look forward to the future of gaming in the territory and to working together as the industry evolves.

Congratulations once again on 30 years of service and dedication to the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,



Susan Varnes
President



Message from Caravelle Casino

44A Queen Cross Street
Christiansted, VI 00820
www.hotelcaravelle.com



Toll Free: 800-524-0140
Office: 340-773-0687
Fax: 340-778-7004
info@hotelcaravelle.com

November 8, 2025

Marvin Pickering Chairman/CEO
Casino Control Commission
3005 Orange Grove
Christiansted, St. Croix 00820

Dear Chairman Pickering:

On behalf of Caravelle Hotel & Casino, I am honored to submit the following statement for inclusion in the commemorative booklet celebrating the 30th Anniversary Gala of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission:

This Gala marks a significant milestone — the 30th anniversary of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission (VICCC). For three decades, the VICCC has stood as a pillar of integrity, oversight, and public trust in the gaming industry.

This journey has been defined by a steadfast commitment to fairness, transparency, and responsible gaming. You've worked diligently to ensure that the casino sector operates with the highest standards of accountability, always prioritizing the protection of consumers and the upholding of the law.

This anniversary is not only a celebration of these accomplishments, but a heartfelt tribute to the dedicated professionals — past and present — whose commitment and expertise have shaped this legacy. Their tireless efforts have built a regulatory framework that is respected both nationally and internationally.

Here's to 30 years of service — and to many more to come.

We look forward to attending and celebrating this special occasion.

Sincerely,

Ted Schieffer COO
VIGL

cc: Carolyn Hermon-Perrell-Commissioner, CCC

Luther Renee -Commissioner, CCC

Linda Smith- Executive Director, CCC

Ruthlin Hurtault-Licensing and Compliance Officer, CCC

Andrew Dubuque-Managing Partner, VIGL





Celebrating 30 Years of Regulatory Excellence:



Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future





Celebrating 30 Years of Regulatory Excellence:

CASINO

Panel rents 4,000-square-foot office, remains mum on members' salaries

The funds were not made available. The Legislature later approved Gov. Roy L. Schneider's proposed special legislation to provide \$1.2 million from "any source available."

It's a bare-bone budget, but we can accomplish our task if we spend prudently," Watson said.

Among the immediate expenditures for the commission are rent for a headquarters and \$25,000 to hire New Jersey attorney Lloyd D. Levenson as a consultant.

The commission approved an agreement between the Department and Fast Photo Inc. to lease Fast Photo's 4,000-square-foot building at 5 Orange Grove.



Eileen Petersen

Officers, committee assignments

ST. CROIX — Officers elected by the Casino Control Commission and appointed by Chairman Eileen Petersen as members of standing committees are:

OFFICERS:
Imelda Medina Dixon of St. Croix — vice chairman;
Joan Thomas of St. John — secretary;
Michael Watson of St. Thomas — treasurer.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Chairman listed first:
Public relations and public education — Petersen and Dixon.
Finance — Watson and Dixon.
Labor and employment — David Brown of St. Croix and Watson.
Enforcement — Thomas and Petersen.
Land use and structures — Oscar Henry of St. Croix and Dixon.
Petersen was nominated by Gov. Roy L. Schneider and confirmed by the Senate to her position. A seventh position is still vacant after Reader Jan Hanley withdrew her nomination.

Rules similar to those for judges

By WILL JONES
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — The Casino Control Commission adopted a code of ethics Thursday in governing its commissioners and employees while in office.

The Casino and Resort Control Act, signed into law Nov. 3 by Gov. Roy L. Schneider, requires the code to be adopted by June 1.

The preamble of the code calls for commissioners and employees to avoid all situations in which private interest in outside business activities and opportunities for personal or financial gain could influence their decision in giving favored treatment to any organization or person.

The seven canons of conduct, modeled after the judicial canons, were approved unanimously by the six members present.

They require commissioners:

- Uphold the integrity and independence of the commission.
- Avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in its activities.
- Perform duties impartially and diligently.
- Engage in activities to improve the law, the casino industry and the administration of the casino industry.
- Regulate extra-official activities to minimize the risk of conflict with official duties.
- Regularly file reports of compensation received for quasi-official and extra-official activities.
- Refrain from political activity inappropriate to the office.

Commission members said licensing and consumer affairs Commissioner Vera Fals was the sole exception to the cooperation they have gotten from each other. Fals' department said the commission was off-limits Thursday and not available to comment on Thomas' remarks.

One thing the commission did not discuss was their own salaries. The casino law gives the governor the authority to set the salary for the chairman at \$65,000 to \$105,000 annually, with other members getting \$55,000 less.

When asked how much commission members were being paid, Petersen gently chided a reporter for "continually asking that question."

"It's too busy to discuss that," she said.



Casino, from page 1

Divi Carina Bay will employ about 200 people

opposed to any of the conditions and that it is his company's desire to fit into the way St. Croix does business.

"I am looking forward to opening the casino and Treasure Bay V.I. Corp. being a productive part of St. Croix and St. Croix's future," Burkholder said.

"Gaming is not a cure for all, but is an economic engine," he added.

He said his company expects to spend about \$2 million the next two months designing and planning the casino and an additional \$4 million in construction and equipment costs by the time of its expected opening in the fall.

The hotel is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in the spring.

The approval of the license came more than three years after the Legislature passed a law authorizing casino gambling for the district of St. Croix. The impetus for the law was to create more hotel rooms and boost tourism on the island.

In approving the license, each member of the commission praised Burkholder and Bradford T. Whitmore, president of Grapevine Shores for investing in St. Croix.

Commission Chairman Eileen Petersen said Burkholder is well known for his ability to turn a losing proposition into a winning one.

"I'm glad they decided to invest in St. Croix," Petersen said.

"Grapevine Shores and Treasure Bay V.I. Corp. have notably demonstrated that they are financially stable and reputable companies but have also shown clear and convincing evidence of their financial integrity and good corporate relations," said commission member Dennis A. Brown.

Treasure Bay plans to build a 10,000-square-foot casino in an atrium at the entrance of the hotel. The casino will initially have 275 slot machines and 12 table games, including blackjack, craps, roulette and pai gow.

The casino will employ about 150 people and the hotel more than 50.

Burkholder said four new rooms would be built on the east wing of the hotel, which was nearly destroyed by Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and is under renovation, before the casino opens to meet the minimum requirement of 150 rooms.

He said 50 additional rooms would be built later to make it a 200-room hotel.

Burkholder is also president of Treasure Bay Corp., which owns and operates a casino in Biloxi, Miss., and is the parent company of Treasure Bay V.I. Corp.

The Daily News, Friday, July 13, 2001

Virgin Islands

5

Commission revokes licenses of 2 casino workers

By BILLY SHELDS
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — For the first time in its short history, the Casino Control Commission stripped two casino employees of their permanent licenses when it was revealed they misappropriated money going through the casino's register.

Two commission members voted to revoke the licenses of Divi Carina Bay casino Maria Gerard and Melissa Morton at its Thursday hearing for violating the casino's internal operating procedures.

"There has been no dispute," Commission Chairman Eileen Petersen said, "that monies were placed in areas not designated by the casino."

The revocation stems from incidents that occurred April 24 and 25, when Gerard and Morton used an undisclosed amount and to staff them behind counters and cash machines in the casino, Petersen said.

"These are not places for money belonging to the casino. They were given responsible positions," and made a mistake, she said.

Both women sat in the Casino Control Commission building during the proceedings and looked at floor as the commission revoked the licenses.

The women were in the room when commission members, and after determination they quickly left, he said. First they then after cutting an in-house investigation and could be forced to shut down if it comes in compliance with the rules.

"They will have to have a hearing, and they would have to come and show all the efforts they have made, prove all that they have done," she said.

Divi casino falls below requirement for percentage of local workers

By BILLY SHELDS
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — The number of bona fide residents employed by Divi Carina Bay Casino has dropped below the number required by law, meaning that the casino may have to stop operating by March of next year if it does not hire more local staff.

At the Casino Control Commission hearing Thursday, Commissioner Lloyd McAlpin revealed that the percentage of residents employed by the casino has gone down and that only 70 percent of the casino's staff are currently bona fide residents of the territory. According to the Virgin Islands Casino Laws and Regulations, 75 percent of the total work force must be residents by the end of its second year of operation.

"When the local residents are not receiving opportunities," Commission Chairman Eileen Petersen said, "that means we have to take action."

A bona fide resident is someone who has lived in the Virgin Islands for at least five years.

If the casino does not up its residents to 75 percent by March, it will enter a hearing process and could be forced to shut down if it comes in compliance with the rules.

"They will have to have a hearing, and they would have to come and show all the efforts they have made, prove all that they have done," she said.

Treasure Island Dixon obtained. The Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission requires that a person have a gaming license to work.

There has been no dispute that monies were placed in areas not designated by the casino.

— Eileen Petersen, Commission chairman

Certain areas of the casino. These areas include the cashier cages, which depend on cash and chips where Gerard and Morton both worked.

Previously, packets of the Caribbean Stud poker game of \$50,000 or higher had to be reported to gaming enforcement because the game involved a mechanical element.

The amended language makes the casino rules consistent across the board.

Casino received smoothly

License hearing goes well for Divi developers

By WILL JONES
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — It's a sure bet that casino gambling will be coming soon to the Virgin Islands if the reception developers received Monday for their license applications is any yardstick.

It was smooth sailing for developers during the Casino Control Commission's public hearing on applications for a license to operate a casino and hotel at the old Divi Hotel on the south shore of St. Croix.

No one spoke in opposition to the proposed project, and only one commission member, Chairwoman Eileen R. Petersen, questioned the developers.

The commission is expected to make a decision in about a week on whether to approve the license.

The license applications are for Treasure Bay V.I. Corp. to operate a casino at the Divi Carina Bay Resort, formerly the Divi Hotel, and for Grapevine Shores Inc. to operate a 150-room hotel.

If the license is approved, the hotel will be known as Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino, according to Chicago attorney Scott D.H. Redman, who represents Grapevine Shores owner Bradford Whitmore.

Oliver R. David, the V.I. gaming and enforcement officer, told the commission he has conducted an investigation of Treasure Bay Corp., which owns a casino in Biloxi, Miss., and is the parent company of Treasure Bay V.I. Corp.

He said he found no reason to prevent the commission from approving the applications.

Bernie Burkholder, president and chief executive officer of Treasure Bay, told the commission the proposal

See Casino, page 2

Casino, from page 1

Burkholder: Unregulated gaming is unfair to casinos

casino would initially be equipped with 275 slot machines and 12 gaming tables.

He said it would employ 132 employees including cash dealers and floor supervisors.

The number would increase to 175 after the casino is fully operational, he said.

Burkholder projected a gross income of about \$20 million during the early stage of operation, with the amount increasing if more visitors and airline flights come to the island.

He said if the license is approved, Treasure Bay would need about two months to finalize their plans and another six months to build the casino, with the casino in operation by fall 1999.

Redman said the hotel, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, should be open by April.

It is very shortsighted of any jurisdiction to allow these largely unregulated games.

Treasure Bay Corp. President and CEO Bernie Burkholder, commenting on illegal video gaming in St. Croix.

He said Whitmore had spent about \$7 million renovating rooms, rebuilding the west wings and adding about 20 new rooms.

Burkholder said the casino will be built in an atrium at the entrance of the hotel and that the project will blend in with the surrounding area.

He said table games will include blackjack, craps, roulette and pai gow.

Burkholder praised the commission for developing what he called strict rules and regulations for casinos, adding that he had to get permission from the Mississippi casino gaming commission to be licensed in the Virgin Islands.

He said the Mississippi commission wanted to make sure he was dealing with a reputable commission in another jurisdiction.

"I think the people of St. Croix got it right," Burkholder said. "They have done well in adopting rules and regulations to prevent corruption, crime and political influence."

Responding to questions by Petersen, Burkholder also said he was concerned about unregulated gaming including video slot machines in bars and restaurants.

"It is very shortsighted of any jurisdiction to allow these largely unregulated games," he said. "It's a huge regulatory problem."

He said it would be unfair to casino operators who comply with the rules and regulations to compete with other games that are not regulated.

Petersen said the commission opposes gambling video games in any place except regulated casinos.

But some groups are trying to get them in other establishments, Petersen said.

"We are fighting an uphill battle in trying to keep them out of bars and restaurants," Petersen said.

"The community has to decide whether it wants casinos or video gaming."

Commission amends casino law

By DENNIS McCLUSTER
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — The Casino Control Commission on Thursday announced that it had sent a host of proposed amendments to the casino gaming law to Gov. Roy L. Schneider so his special counsel can draft them.

"When the amendments are drafted, they will come back to us to review one more time, then we will send them back to the Legislature," said Eileen Petersen, the commission chairwoman.

Petersen said that because the governor has amendments he is proposing for the statute, "we're giving him the courtesy of putting them all into his package of amendments."

The list encompassed several of proposed changes, including:

- Expanding the number of games permitted in casinos.
- Beefing up criminal penalties for illegal gaming.
- Eliminating overlapping jurisdictions and enforcement functions of several departments.

As commissioners waded through the voluminous rules and regulations in the meeting that lasted several hours, they added other amendments to go to the governor.

The bulk of the meeting was taken up with reviewing rules and regulations in the wake of the public comment period's end Oct. 18.

Amending regulations along the way, commissioners approved sections on general provisions of the Casino Control Commission, gross revenue tax, gaming schools, exclusion of people, hearings and equal employment and business opportunity. Because of the amount of community comment, the commission postponed action on sections dealing with accounting and internal controls, conduct of gaming, casino applications, casino licenses and casino service entity licenses.

Also postponed for the same reason was discussion on fees.

Those sections will be dealt with in a meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday.

The commission also:

- Heard discussion from ad-hoc committees formed to explore gambling on the Internet, charitable games such as bingo, sports betting, the St. Croix convention project and hospitality training school. Commissioner Imelda Dixon announced that the board for the hospitality school had been formed and that the first meeting of the school would be Nov. 14.

Virgin Islands

The Daily News

Divi, from page 1

Schneider: Casino commission took a 'lot of blows'

world if we continue to thoroughly investigate those who apply for a license," she said.

Gov. Roy L. Schneider said Casino Control Commission members "took a lot of blows" because it took longer than expected to bring a casino to St. Croix.

"They took a lot of blows like good troops, but they brought us to this day," he said.

Schneider, indicating that there may be "some of the last words" he speaks publicly as governor, also said the groundbreaking ceremony to speak about current issues in the government.

He said reports that there may be upcoming payless paydays for government workers are false.

"Those clowns are not running the government at this time," he

said. "I can tell you there will be a payday Dec. 31."

Schneider also acknowledged Lt. Gov.-elect G. Lutz James II and his wife, Lisa, in the audience, and Schneider said everyone needs to work with the new administration.

"God bless," he said to James. "Because you're going to need a lot of it."

Schneider thanked Burkholder and Grapevine Shores Inc. President Brad Whitmore for having faith in investing in St. Croix.

And faith in the success of the casino appeared ingrained in Burkholder

and Whitmore.

"Everybody — here has one thing in common," Burkholder said. "That is to revitalize the tourism industry on St. Croix."

Whitmore said the Grapevine Shores resort next to the casino site is scheduled to open in April. Whitmore said he has invested \$7 million of his own funds into the project and the bank of Nova Scotia will invest \$5 million as well. He predicted that at the end of this project St. Croix would rank as one of the top tourist destinations in the Caribbean.

"This is the vision. This is what we are all working towards," said Whitmore, who is from Evanston, Ill. Whitmore warned against introducing the much-debated video lottery terminals into the territory while the casino is brand-new.

"A new casino is a fragile child," he said. "And it must be nurtured until it can stand on its own."

Both Burkholder and Whitmore said that investors from throughout the Caribbean and the United States will monitor the success or failure of this project to determine St. Croix's viability as an investment site.

"All the eyes in the investment communities — are watching very closely," Whitmore said.

Sen.-elect Anne Golden and Gregory Benson as well as Sen. Vargave Richards, Holland L. Redfield II, Miguel A. Camacho and Carol M. Burke attended. James attended with his wife, Lisa. Turnbull-James transition team co-chair Othello Harris also attended.

Divi breaks ground for casino

Gaming not cure-all, investor warns

By DANA ANDERSON

Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Groundbreaking Friday for Treasure Bay VI Corp.'s Divi Carina Bay Casino brought out a jubilant crowd of politicians, investors and Casino Control Commission members.

About 50 people attended the afternoon event under a canopy tent on the south shore site where an empty building, gutted by Hurricane Hugo, stands.

Everyone appeared excited about the construction of St. Croix's long-awaited first casino. But Vargave Richards, Bay's President and CEO, said the casino should not be expected to be a cure-all for the island's economic woes.

"Please understand what gaming can and cannot do," Burkholder said. "He said most people have 'too much hope' when casinos come into an area. What casinos can do, however, is act as a 'catalyst' to starting the economic engine."

At the ceremony, Treasurer Bay displayed a poster that stated 132 jobs would be created when the casino opens next September. A payroll of almost \$3 million in the first year. About 20 of those jobs are security, 20 management, 25 maintenance, 15 beverage service and 52 casino game-related jobs.

The event, complete with five-piece band, hors d'oeuvres, wine and an artist's rendering of the casino, drew those involved in bringing a casino to St. Croix a chance to sing each other's praises.

Casino Control Commission Chairwoman Eileen Petersen said the process the commission used to grant Treasure Bay the first casino license must be followed for future licensees.

◆ See Divi, page 2

3rd casino application announced

By DANA ANDERSON

Daily News Staff

JUL 18 1998

ST. CROIX — Local developer Peter Ross has applied to the Casino Control Commission for a license to operate a casino and hotel in downtown Christiansted.

The application, filed Wednesday, is for a Tier III joint venture between Ross' King's Alley Development Corp./Development Consultants Inc. and the Colorado-based Blackhawk Gaming and Development Inc.

It is the second casino license application to be submitted to the commission. The Treasure Bay Corp. of Biloxi, Miss., filed for a casino license for the Divi Divi Hotel, now under renovation by Grapevine Shores Inc. of Evanston, Ill. The commission also received an application from Leisure and Gaming of the Virgin Islands in March for a license to provide goods and services to a casino.

Eileen R. Petersen, commission chairwoman, confirmed Friday that Ross' company has submitted an application for a casino license.

But Petersen said that application isn't considered filed until the commission reviews it to determine if it was properly completed.

The commission will not file the application until it is closely scrutinized, because once it is accepted, the applicant must pay one-half of the license fee, which is nonrefundable whether or not the license is approved, she said.

The fee for a Tier III hotel-casino — 200 to 299 rooms — is \$150,000 for 7,000 square feet and \$50,000 for each additional square foot.

Ross is president of King's Alley Hotel. Blackhawk is owned by Jeffrey P. Jacobs, whose father, Richard Jacobs, is owner of the Cleveland Indians baseball team.

Jeffrey Jacobs is involved in a number of gaming and entertainment businesses across the U.S. mainland, according to attorney Kevin Rames, who represents Ross and Blackhawk.

Rames said hotels in the King's Alley area, including the King's Alley Hotel, would be consolidated and new rooms constructed to form a 200-room hotel. He said the casino would be on the ground floor of the Hamilton House building, with luxury hotel rooms on the fourth floor of that building.

Before Ross and Blackhawk submitted the application, the commission ruled June 24 on several issues surrounding the legality of the Christiansted Harbor Walk joint venture, mostly in favor of the venture.

If Christiansted Harbor Walk is approved, Rames said the development will revitalize the Christiansted historic district.

Daily News staff member Will Jones contributed to this report.

The Daily News, Tuesday, November 26, 2002

Virgin Islands

Casino Commission passes regulations for Internet gambling

By MARTY SCHLADEN

Daily News Staff NOV 26 2002

ST. CROIX — A dubious Casino Control Commission found itself on the cutting edge Monday as it passed a set of regulations for Internet gambling.

Commissioners said that the licensing fees spelled out by the Senate will not cover their regulatory costs, that they were developing regulations without a model from another jurisdiction and that it was possible Internet gambling violates federal law. But they said they were bound by the Internet gambling law the Senate passed last year to develop the best regulations they could.

"I am extremely uncomfortable working on these rules and regulations, but my hands are tied," said Commissioner Imelda Dizon. "It has not been determined whether Internet gaming is legal under federal law."

For their part, representatives of

the two companies that the V.I. law designated as "master-service providers" say that if the government and the commission do not change the rules too much, they expect many companies — particularly from Nevada and New Jersey — to move to St. Croix and set up Internet-gambling operations.

The master-service providers now must apply for licenses. That process is expected to take several months, and then companies that would contract with them to conduct Internet gambling also must be licensed.

"We are hoping eventually to have 75 franchisees," said Nick Pourzal, managing partner of United States Internet Gaming Services. "This will generate an enormous investment."

Todd Newman, a Christiansted attorney and a partner in the St. Croix Internet Group, said that the big gaming companies in Nevada

and New Jersey would risk their licenses there by setting up Internet-gambling companies in unregulated jurisdictions. For that reason, many of those companies are likely to find St. Croix an attractive place to do business, Newman said.

"The world is very much aware that the commission is passing these regulations," Newman said. "But, Newman said, unlike a land-based casino, Internet-gambling franchises easily can pull out if they find the territory to be a difficult place to do business."

"You have to have stability, or you can lose the franchisees overnight," he said.

Casino Control Commission Chairwoman Eileen Petersen said that the commission had no existing state regulation after which to model its regulations but writing them difficult.

"The Legislature said we're supposed to be a role model for the

United States," Petersen said.

Adding to the uncertainty was the fact the U.S. Justice Department maintained in August that Internet gambling was illegal under federal law even as the House of Representatives began to consider partial regulation of the industry.

The legal picture became somewhat clearer Friday, when the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld a lower-court ruling that Internet gambling did not violate the U.S. Wire Communications Act.

But Petersen said she still was disturbed that the Legislature passed an act designating the master-service providers without putting the service out to bid. She said that she also was worried that the Senate did not study the financial impact of Internet gambling on the territory and its residents and that the licensing fees were so low.

"I have undertaken this assign-

ment with much trepidation, much fear," she said.

Under the law, the two master-service providers will pay 2.5 percent of their gross annual revenue in taxes to the government and the franchisees will pay 1.5 percent.

Master-service providers each will pay \$25,000 for three-year licenses while franchisees will pay \$25,000 for the first year and \$10,000 a year for renewal. By comparison, Divi Carina Bay Casino pays \$150,000 for a two-year license.

"This is peanuts," Dizon said of the Internet fees. Pourzal, a former president of the Marriott's Frenchman's Reef Beach Resort, said that Internet gambling would prove to be a good deal for the territory over the long run.

"This is a nonpolluting industry that will bring many millions to the United States Virgin Islands," he said.

The Daily News, Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Casino Control extends Golden Gaming's conditional license

By AESHA DUVAL

Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — The V.I. Casino Control Commission on Tuesday extended by six months Golden Gaming's conditional casino license and waived Divi Carina Bay Casino's requirement that after three years of operation, 90 percent of its work force consist of five-year V.I. residents.

Golden Gaming is seeking a gaming license to build a casino-resort near Great Pond on St. Croix's south shore. The commission did not issue the license because the company has not provided information on financial backing, obtained a Coastal Zone Management permit and complied with an investigation.

The extension will run from Nov. 1 through May 1, 2004. The commission felt a six-month extension would be enough time for Golden to comply. By May 1, Golden "should have all the requirements ready, or he's kicking the door," Commission Chairwoman Eileen Petersen said.

Attorneys Treva Moore and Lloyd Levenson spoke on behalf of Golden. Moore said the CZM permit application process, which will include public hearings, could take three months.

The CZM process will determine whether the project could harm the delicate Great Pond ecosystem. A CZM permit could be issued in three

Casino board approves Internet gaming license

By AESHA DUVAL

Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — The Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission on Tuesday approved a bill to issue Internet gaming licenses to USVI Host Inc. and its directors.

USVI Host is based on St. Croix, but its offices and operations would be on St. Croix. Eileen Petersen, board chairwoman, said USVI Host was granted a license as a master service provider, which means the company would provide the server facility to host online gambling websites. USVI Host would attract companies interested in developing Internet gaming in the Virgin Islands.

The commission members were hesitant to approve the application because the issue of whether Internet gaming is legal is still up in the air.

Petersen said Congress has not acted on the issue and the federal government opposes Internet gaming because it violates U.S. laws. She said that no Internet gaming companies are now operating under U.S. jurisdiction that grants a license for Internet gaming.

"The eyes of the world are on the V.I. as we proceed," Petersen said. "We would be the first U.S. jurisdiction to grant a license for Internet gaming."

Virgin Islands

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ST. CROIX — If the government is serious about having strict control over casino gambling, it must give the Casino Control Commission the finances and resources it needs to get the job done, the woman who is expected to lead the panel to lead the panel said Monday.

Former Territorial Court Judge Eileen R. Petersen told the Senate Rules Committee that if there is any hope of getting any significant return from the territory's experience with casinos, the government must make a considerable investment.

Petersen was unanimously approved as chairwoman of the commission by the committee after she delivered a 14-page statement and answered questions.

The five committee members present — Sen. Lilliana Belardo of O'Neil, Adiah "Fonce" Donastorg Jr., Alicia "Chucky" Hansen, Vargave Richards and Domingo "Rocky" Labard — voted to send her nomination to the full Senate, which will consider it today.

While being questioned by the committee, Petersen constantly reminded them that the commission should not adopt rules and regulations to control gambling and enforce them without a budget.

"If this government is not willing or able to make a substantial investment and a commitment of resources to this commission (and various other government agencies) and to the aggressive promotion of

commission took into account casino officials' claims that the lack of qualified dealers and slot technicians in the territory made it difficult to meet quotas.

Dizon is now in his third year, and only about 70 percent of the casino's employees meet the residency requirement, commission member Lloyd McAlpin said.

The commission requested proof that Dizon has been complying with other provisions, such as advertising job openings. McAlpin said the casino has worked with the V.I. Labor Department to hire local employees.

The commission agreed that much of the problem is the lack of training programs, which the V.I. government was supposed to provide before the casino was built.

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Virgin Islands

Petersen: Invest money or stop charade

By WILL JONES

Daily News Staff

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"If this government is not willing or able to make a substantial investment and a commitment of resources to this commission (and various other government agencies) and to the aggressive promotion of

'I will not and cannot be bought'

By WILL JONES

Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Eileen R. Petersen said Monday that if the confirmed as chairwoman of the Casino Control Commission, the panel will conduct its business in public.

The former Territorial Court judge told the Senate Rules Committee that the lines of communication between the commission, the administration, the Legislature and the public must always be open.

"Under my leadership, this commission will conduct its business in the light of day," Petersen said.

"Sensitive and confidential material will be protected, but this commission will always know when important decisions have been made."

She said the main focus of the commission will be to control casino gambling in the territory, not promote it.

The commission will be the control valve" on the failing industry of gaming and enforcement, who will be an attorney assigned to the Attorney General's Office.

The director will be responsible for enforcing the law and rules and regulations adopted by the commission and prosecuting violators.

For example, she said the law calls for the governor to appoint the Senate to confirm a director of gaming and enforcement, who will be an attorney assigned to the Attorney General's Office.

The director will be responsible for enforcing the law and rules and regulations adopted by the commission and prosecuting violators.

But Petersen said the law does not give the commission any input in selecting the director.

"The person named may not have the same position on some issue as we would have, and I may not have confidence in him as the governor does," Petersen said.

She also said the law gives responsibility for licensing to both the commission and the Licensing and Consumer Affairs Department.

Belardo questioned Petersen closely about whether the commission will act independently of the Governor's Office.

values, identity and souls for a few pieces of gold," Petersen said.

Petersen said her own record is unblemished.

"My record is clean, my house (financial and otherwise) is in order and I cannot and will not be corrupted," she said. "I will not and cannot be bought."

Other points made by Petersen: "Serving on the commission does not conflict with my religious beliefs, because the job is in order and I cannot and will not be corrupted," she said. "I will not and cannot be bought."

"The commission will adopt tough rules to keep minors out of casinos."

"The person named may not have the same position on some issue as we would have, and I may not have confidence in him as the governor does," Petersen said.

Belardo said the governor already has been in contact with potential investors and wondered if the commission would be pressured into licensing someone recommended by Schneider.

Petersen threw the ball back to Belardo.

"When Watson came before them — have you confirmed him?" she replied. "If you didn't believe in him, you wouldn't have confirmed him. I won't take a position on any matter until I have confirmed him."

Petersen said she welcomed a list of potential hotel-casino licenses.





Acknowledgements

It is with deep appreciation that Chairman Pickering, Commissioner Hermon-Percell, and Commissioner Renee acknowledge and thank those persons who helped to make this evening so very special:

REMA EDWARDS, our decorator, who transformed the Ha'Penny Beach Club into our own Casino Royale

RUTHLIN A. HURTAULT and BEVERLY A. HERMON WALLACE, our hostesses, who greeted our guests with beautiful smiles and true graciousness

CHEF RALPH MOTTA and his staff for the delicious meal and excellent service

Mixologists **FRANK ROBINSON and KJ RICHARDS** for the fabulous libations

HARTATAK INTERNATIONAL BAND for the wonderful musical styling of varied genres that kept us dancing

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CONSTANCIA EBANKS for creating unique gifts for our guests

MERVIN MILLS for his impressive talent in designing the Roll Call Plaque

30TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE chaired by **COMMISSIONER LUTHER RENEE** and the staff of the **VIRGIN ISLANDS CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION** for going above and beyond

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YVETTE DELAUBANQUE, our Event Coordinator, who with her creative mind, tireless spirit, and many emails led us to what has been a most memorable event

Thank you all so very much!



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