



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

December 13, 2019

Mr. Jay T. Watson
P.O. Box 1643 – Kingshill
St. Croix, VI 00851

Dear Mr. Watson:

In accordance with the provisions of 32 V.I.C. Chapter 11, Subchapter I, Section 201(d), I am exercising my authority to remove you for cause from the Virgin Islands Horse Racing Commission. The basis of this decision is the following:

From January 2019 through December 2019 (approximately 12 months) you failed to administer the Virgin Islands Horse Racing Commission (“Horse Racing Commission”) in a professional manner and misrepresented or imposed arbitrary rules on fellow Commission members in violation of Virgin Islands Law.

- Between February 8, 2019 and November 18, 2019, you have sought to act as putative Chair and during this time you have sought to impose the use of Robert’s Rules of Order (“Robert’s Rules”) despite no evidence of adoption of such rules either being required by the controlling statute or by a Commission-approved resolution. In fact, one version of minutes from February 8, 2019, indicates no adoption of Robert’s Rules and another version of the same minutes from February 8th does not include any reference to a vote or the term “Robert’s Rules of Order”. The nonreference of Robert’s Rules continues into the next board meeting on April 25, 2019.
- Moreover, pursuant to Virgin Islands Law, although it is the duty of the Horse Racing Commission pursuant to 32 V.I.C. § 202(b) to adopt and amend rules and regulations under your chairmanship, this duty was not executed. Such rules and regulations would have provided Commission members and horse racing participants guidance as to the supervision of racing and as to the functions and operating procedures of the Commission. In fact, at the April 25, 2019 meeting Commissioner Phillips requested that rules and regulations must be approved.
- These assertions as presented, in addition to not being adopted by the Commission, were disruptive and are not enforceable.
- These actions led to the Horse Racing Commission’s inability to conduct meetings professionally and disrupted the actual functions of the Commission and prevented the Commissioners from undertaking their duties.

From October 2019 through December 2019 (approximately 2.5 months) you have obstructed the Attorney's General Office and the Commissioner of Sports, Parks, and Recreation from obtaining documentation from the Horse Racing Commission thereby preventing other agencies and departments from executing their duties under Virgin Islands Law.

- When asked to provide documentation by the Commissioner of Sports, Parks, and Recreation, who is authorized to supervise the Commission, pursuant to 32 V.I.C. § 202(a), your response has been, on more than one occasion, to deny or ignore the request.
- It was made clear that these requests for documents were for items requested by the Attorney General to evaluate this matter and you still failed to respond. This failure to provide records as directed led to the obstruction of the Attorney General and the Commissioner's duties.

These actions disrupted the overall functions of the Horse Racing Commission to the detriment of the Virgin Islands. I cannot allow these circumstances to continue.

Therefore, I am removing you from the VI Horse Racing Commission for cause, due to the fact that you have continued to demonstrate that your personal objectives and views have taken precedence over that of the Government and, more particularly, the horse racing community and that of the majority of members of the Commission.

I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Very Truly Yours,



Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Cc: VI Horse Racing Commission Members