



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 448 - 2009

TO CREATE THE VIRGIN ISLANDS MARINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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WHEREAS the need exists to create a Council to act as a catalyst for the improvement of the marine industry and related activities, to stimulate employment and related opportunities of this part of the economy for the Territory; and

WHEREAS this Council will be the primary authority providing advice to the Governor on the issues of planning, policy development, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the marine industry in the Territory; and

WHEREAS this Council will advise the Governor in the development of an economic policy and other related programs to promote this vital part of the Virgin Islands economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954 of the Virgin Islands, as amended, and by Act No. 5265, the Government Reorganization and Consolidation Act of 1987, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. Members of the Virgin Islands Marine Economic Development Council.

a. There is hereby created within the Office of the Governor the Virgin Islands Marine Economic Development Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council"). The Council shall consist of a representative from the following departments, agencies, and, in consultation with the appropriate chief executive officer of the same, the instrumentalities of the Government of the Virgin Islands, to include:

1. the Office of the Governor;
2. the Virgin Islands Port Authority;

3. the West Indian Company, Ltd.;
4. the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism;
5. the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority;
6. the Workforce Investment Board;
7. the University of the Virgin Island; and
8. such other departments, instrumentalities, and agencies of the Virgin Islands Government as the Governor may determine to be appropriate from time to time.

b. In addition, to the governmental representatives set forth in Section 1.a.1 above, there also shall be one representative from each of areas of the private sector listed below, to include:

1. tour operators;
2. the diving industry;
3. the charter yacht industry;
4. the sports and game fishing industry;
5. the marine support industry;
6. marina operators;
7. marine manufacturers;
8. marine employment, education, training, and certification operations; and
9. and other related marine fields operating in the Territory, as determined by the Governor.

SECTION 2. The Governor shall appoint the Chairman and the Council shall select the Vice Chairman and other officers of the Council. The Council shall perform such duties as the Governor may prescribe, including, but not limited to:

- a. Conduct a review and assessment of the marine industry and the economic relationship with the government;
- b. Develop a comprehensive marine economic program for the government including long range improvement programs;
- c. Consult with individuals and organizations to gather a

broad range of views to assist in the development of the economic policies and programs to improve the industry;

d. Study and report on the effect of federal and local laws on the marine industry and suggest areas of improvement where possible;


e. Analyze all aspects of the marine industry including other Caribbean destinations which compete with the local industry and recommend areas for enhancing the local industry; and

f. Investigate, study and report on any area that the Council deems relevant to its responsibility of rendering advice to the Governor on the Territory's marine industry.

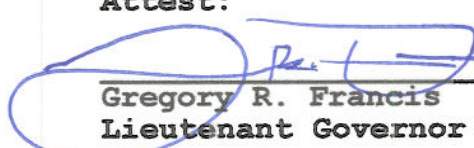
SECTION 3. All departments and agencies of the Government of the Virgin Islands shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law, cooperate with the Council in the performance of its duties and provide such assistance, support and information as will facilitate the Council's work.

SECTION 4. The Council, may in its discretion, form such sub-committees as may be necessary to address special concerns and assist in carrying out the work of the Council as the Council may direct.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 30th day of October A.D., 2009.



John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

Attest:


Gregory R. Francis
Lieutenant Governor