



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

# PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RELATIONS BOARD

P. O. BOX 25435, GALLOWS BAY, ST. CROIX, USVI 00824-1435  
340-773-5580 (STX) 340-773-4780 (STX FAX) 340-775-4190 (STT) 340-714-7044 (STT FAX)

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RELATIONS BOARD CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

On August 31, 2020 the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) celebrates its 40th Anniversary (1980 – 2020).

#### HISTORY:

On May 7, 1980, **ACT No. 4440** (hereafter "the Act") was passed by the Thirteenth Legislature of the Virgin Islands of the United States. The full execution of the Act was attested by Senator Elmo D. Roebuck, President, and Senator Cleone Creque Hodge, Legislative Secretary. On May 23, 1980, the Act was vetoed and on June 2, 1980 the Act was overridden.

The Public Employees Relations Board was created as a separate, independent Board of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, which provides for constructive labor relations between the Virgin Islands Government and its employees. As a result of the Act, the collective bargaining laws were broadened, and the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the PERB were established. The Members of the Board serves as administrative law judges and hears cases to determine whether the rights guaranteed to employees of the Government have been violated.

Further, in accordance with the Act, PERB's mission includes improving public sector relations between management and union representatives, especially in the areas of dispute resolution through mediation and arbitration. The PERB also conducts trainings in labor relations, among other union initiatives, that would encourage congenial labor relations.

As PERB celebrates this milestone, it is important to recognize the following individuals who served on the Board over the past 40 years and those who have made significant contributions to the PERB.

#### **Names shown are in numeric order from 1980 to 2020:**

Leo Petersen, Member

Wilburn A. Smith, Jr., Member

Vargrave Richards, Chairman

Jean Romney, Member

Luis Llanos, Member

Raymond Plaskett, Member

Aubrey A. Lee, current Member and Chairman (1999 - 2015)

Richard M. Upson, Chairman

Alvin O. Davis, Member

Rosalie Simmonds, Member

Leslie Millin, Member

Keith Husbands, Member

Rhudel George, Member

Edgar M. Iles, Chairman

Riise Ellen Smith Richards, Member

Levron Sarauw, Sr., Member

Ray A. Martinez, past Member and past Executive Director

Emma C. Ayala, Member

Rodney Moorehead, current Member

Hugo Denis, Jr., Member

Omar B.U. Henry, Member

Zandra (Messiah) Petersen, past Member and current Executive Director

Annie Day Henry, current Member

Frederick Joseph, current Member

Pierina Jacobs-Feldman, current Chair (2015 to present)

**Special recognition goes out to former Governor Juan F. Luis, who on April 17, 1985, approved the Rules and Regulations for PERB's predecessor, the Government Employees Service Commission ("GESC"), to address appeals brought before the GESC, pursuant to Section 530 of Title 3. Also, to former Governor Roy Lester Schneider, who on June 17, 1997, approved the Rules and Regulations of the PERB, Title 3, Chapter 25, V.I.R.R., Amendments to Subchapter 496. The issuance of these certificates were due to compelling circumstances, in the interest of the public, and for these regulations to become effective without delay of prior publication.**

We further express our heartfelt gratitude to our past and present members and current staff, especially previous Legal Counsel **Lorin Kleger, Esq.** and current Legal Counsel, Larry Raymond Roy, Esq.

**THANK YOU ALL for your service and contributions to the PERB!**

Respectfully,

Periza Roberto Edma  
Chairman