



# Senator Allison L. DeGazon

## Senator Allison DeGazon attends 2019 UVI Pre- Commencement Celebration, honoring Dr. Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson

On Thursday, May 16, 2019, Senator Allison L. DeGazon attended UVI’s 2019 Pre-Commencement Celebration. The highlight of the ceremony was the acknowledgement and reflections of the memories and accomplishments of Dr. Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson- scholar, economic guru, Caribbean cultural keeper, superb professor, academic leader, and awardee of one of UVI’s 2019 honorary degrees.



## Senator Allison DeGazon Keynote Speaker at UVI’s 2019 Employee Appreciation Ceremony and Summer Boost Program

Senator Allison L. DeGazon was invited to give remarks at UVI’s Employee Appreciation Ceremony on April 25, 2019. The Senator expressed that employees are the pillars of the institution and spoke to the importance of taking care of and investing in employees, as a means for increasing the overall quality of any establishment or unit.



## High School Senior Classes Celebrate 2019 Promotional Exercises

Senator Allison L. DeGazon attended multiple graduation ceremonies in celebration of the promotion of local elementary, junior high, and high school students. The Senator beamed with pride as she observed the bestowing of diplomas on 300 plus students. She wishes nothing but the best to each graduate and looks forward to seeing what they will accomplish in their collegiate journeys



## Constituent Engagement at Local Farmer’s Market

The Senator engaged in a Farmer’s Market Initiative. During that time, the Senator was able to personally meet various local farmers and farm owners. Constituents were able to communicate their issues and concerns to the Senator and asked her questions about her own farming experiences. Additionally, the Senator distributed a newsletter, detailing her active engagement in the community, drafted legislation, and accomplishments in her role thus far.



## Radio Tour Updates

From June 20-22, 2019, Senator Allison DeGazon launched a series of radio tours to update the public about she has accomplished since being sworn in. The Senator discussed several bills drafted by her office and detailed her participation and leadership in various community events. Additionally, the Senator shared the contact information of her office and urged listeners to utilize the contact as a means of voicing any issues or concerns they may need her assistance with.



*“Play Time is Over!”*

## Board of Realtors Request Update to Real Estate Code

The President of the Board of Realtors and executive members met with Senator DeGazon to discuss the need to update the Real Estate Code, as well as concerns like streamlining the CZM (Coastal Zone Management) process and rent control issues. These discussions were part of an effort to curtail the territorial inflation of rent cost, lack of availability of rental property, addressing the need of members of the real estate commission, and shortening the CZM process.



## Senator DeGazon Meets with Department of Education Leadership Team

The focal point of this meeting was to discuss Senator DeGazon's education initiatives and address concerns she gathered from constituents ranging from the upcoming school consolidation to delays in assessment screening. DOE Leadership team expressed their commitment towards working with the Senator to ensure that students and parents, along with faculty and staff remain their focus. As a result of the meeting, the Senator submitted legislation to temporarily allow DOE to hire vocational teachers, thereby reducing teacher shortage.



## Senator DeGazon visits Aquaponic Center in Jacksonville, Florida

As chair of the Committee of Economic Development, Regulations and Agriculture, Senator DeGazon was invited to visit and review the "Fresh Ministries" Aquaponic Center in Jacksonville Florida from May 24-30. This meeting allowed the Senator to see firsthand the aquaponic project development and implementation. The Senator's review of this aquaponic facility stands in relationship to Fresh Ministries coming to the territory and building six (6) aquaponic facilities. This project is slated for St. Croix, with the possibility of expanding to the St. Thomas/St. John district based on the success of St. Croix. The project should break ground later this year.



## Senator DeGazon supports LimeTree Bay Basic Operations Training Graduation

One June 25, 2019, Senator DeGazon attended the graduation ceremony of LimeTree Bay's first Basic Operator Training Class. The Senator noted that there were so many positive things happening in the Virgin Islands during that time and was elated to share the accomplishment on her social media platform. During this ceremony, 35 men and women out of 200 applicants successfully graduated. The Senator said, "This is a demonstration of excellence and will." She extended congratulations and well wishes to the entire team and to the families who made it possible.



## DeGazon Attends Oral Health Summit

One June 18, 2019, Senator DeGazon attended the Oral Health Summit, hosted by the American Dental Association, in the Port Authority Conference Room. Local oral health professionals, territory-wide, discussed room for improvement in the Virgin Islands' approach to Oral Health Care, as well as brainstormed ideas to address identified issues. Holistically, attendees agreed that two of the primary challenges were: there is a need for more dentists in the territory and that oral health care education efforts need to be intensified. Additionally, a common idea amongst the group was that the oral care process should begin as early as age 1.



*"Play Time is Over!"*

Office of Senator Allison L. DeGazon (340) 712- 2210  
[adegazon@legvi.org](mailto:adegazon@legvi.org) #1108 King Street Hamilton House Christiansted, St. Croix, 00820

## Senator DeGazon Gives Well Wishes to Soon-Deployed VI Airmen

Starting next week, family and friends of airmen in the Virgin Islands Air National Guard will bid them farewell for several months, thus Sen. Allison DeGazon and several other dignitaries honored them for their service at a ceremony on Monday, July 1, 2019, at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport. DeGazon said the notice of deployment left her and others with feelings of relief, but also of sorrow. “I am relieved and honored that we have such fine and prepared airmen brave enough to face deployment. On the other hand, I am saddened because our community has to say farewell for a long time,” DeGazon said.



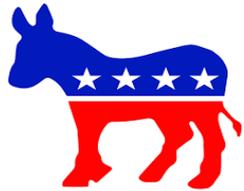
The senator wished the airmen of the 285 Civil Engineering Squadron well in their endeavors as they prepare to join other units in the nation in protecting the country. “I pray that this deployment serves as positive work experience and opens many doors of opportunity for our brothers and sisters. Our hearts and prayers will be with each one until they return home safely,” DeGazon said.

## Senator DeGazon wraps up week with Department of Finance

As a member of the Committee of Finance, Senator Allison DeGazon heard testimony several departments about the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. Monday’s testimonies were from from the Division of Personnel (DOP), Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Bureau of Information Technology (BIT). Based on Tuesday’s hearings were from the Juan F. Luis Hospital, Frederiksted Health Care Center and the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs.



The budget hearings are a crucial part of making sure the territory’s finances are correct, hold departments accountable for misuse of funds, and appropriate funding as necessary to ensure the government can run smoothly and complete needed projects.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAIRPERSON</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee of Economic Development, Regulations &amp; Agriculture</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIAISON TO U.S. CONGRESS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEMBER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee on Finance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee on Government Operations, Consumer Affairs, Energy, Environment, and Planning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee on Education and Workforce Development</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunications</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b></p> 
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# Legislation

## **Bill 33-0077 Financial Exploitation of the elderly and dependent adults**

**Summary:** This Bill amends title 34 of the Virgin Islands Code by adding a new chapter 15A 10 relating to the financial exploitation of elderly persons or dependent adults. The new chapter is divided into seven sections. Section 481 contains definitions of terms used throughout the new Chapter. Section 482 clarifies the scope of the chapter. Section 483 establishes punishment for violations of the chapter. Section 484 specifies that the chapter does not abridge the victim's rights pursuant to title 16, chapter 2 of the Virgin Islands Code. Section 485 establishes a good faith effort defense to criminal liability. Section 486 establishes that the accused cannot use the defense of a reasonable belief that the victim was not an elderly person or person with a disability. Section 487 contains general provisions relating to civil action that can be taken by victims under this chapter.

## **BILL NO. 33-0102 Graduates of the Adult Education Center among those eligible to receive scholarships as valedictorian and salutatorian**

**Summary:** This Bill codifies and amends title 17, chapter 15, section 190u of the Virgin Islands Code by including graduates of the Adult Education Center among those eligible to receive scholarships 9 as valedictorian and salutatorian

## **Bill 33-0096 Creating the Virgin Islands Government Prompt Payment Act**

**Summary:** This Bill is amends title 31, chapter 115, subchapter IV of the Virgin Islands Code by repealing and replacing it with a new subchapter IV establishing the Virgin Islands Government Prompt Payment Act. The new subchapter is divided into ten sections. Section 3281 lists the short title and citation of the Act. Section 328 defines terms as used in the subchapter. Section 3283 provides details for timely payment for non-construction services. Section 3284 provides details for timely payment for purchases of construction services. Section 3285 provides procedures for calculation of payment due dates. Section 3286 outlines details and guidelines for mandatory interest for late payments. Section 3287 establishes procedures for resolution of disputes. Section 3288 explains how the subchapter affects payment by federal funds. Section 3289 mandates reporting on interest paid for late payments. Finally, section 3290 creates the public bid disclosure procedure.

## **Pending Bills**

### **BR 19-0-108/33-0054 To allow a fantasy sports gaming entity**

**Summary:** As the government strives to create new sustainable revenue streams, fantasy sports gaming seemed as a complement to our casino gaming laws. The good thing about this proposed legislation that it is not revenue derived from our local community. Because it is online, we would receive the bulk of revenue from off-shore individuals.

### **To allow teachers that have out-of-pocket expenses to purchase supplies their classrooms at the beginning of the school year to receive a reimbursement stipend of up to \$200.**

**Summary:** For too long our teachers have reached into their pockets to prepare their classrooms for learning. Although some teachers have spent more than \$200 due having to multiple classes, this proposed legislation would ease some of the cost they incur.

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