



TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE

## Statement of Facts on GOP Territorial Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(April 18, 2016)—The Republican Party of the Virgin Islands issues the following statement of facts to correct false representations:

### **There was only one lawful meeting of the Territorial Committee.**

**Fact:** The only lawfully noticed and lawfully conducted meeting of the Territorial Committee was a regular meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 16, concurrently held in St. Croix and St. Thomas. The chairman of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, John Canegata, gave notice of this regular meeting in full compliance with article V, section I and article V, section III of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands.<sup>1</sup>

### **The chairman decides the meeting agenda.**

**Fact:** Under article V, section III of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, “The agenda of all regular meetings shall be prepared by the chairman.” The agenda only contained one item of business: The ratification of appointments to fill vacancies on the Territorial Committee. [See attached.]

### **The meeting was called to order, a quorum was present and two motions were made, seconded and passed on a voice vote.**

**Fact:** The regular meeting of the Territorial Committee was called to order by the party chairman, John Canegata, at 9:16 a.m. on Saturday, April 16. Then-Secretary Tanya-Marie Singh called the roll and determined a quorum of the Territorial Committee were concurrently present on St. Croix and St. Thomas in person or by written proxy. Territorial Committee member Frederick Espinosa rose and lawfully obtained the floor to move a motion ratifying the chairman’s appointment of Jevon Williams, Garfield Doran and David Johnson to fill vacancies on the Territorial Committee. The motion was seconded by Liliana Belardo de O’Neal, the party’s national committeewoman. Hearing no discussion, a vote was called by the chairman. The ‘ayes’ prevailed, pursuant to article VIII, section I of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands. Mr. Espinosa subsequently obtained the floor and moved a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by National Committeewoman O’Neal. A motion

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<sup>1</sup> Party rules can be accessed in full at <http://usvigop.org/about/rules/>.

to adjourn is not debatable or subject to discussion under article XVI, section 3 of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands. A vote was called by the chairman. The ‘ayes’ prevailed, pursuant to article VIII, section I of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands. The meeting was adjourned sine die.

**There was no ‘roll call vote.’**

**Fact:** Contrary to the inaccuracies of ¶ 19 and ¶ 20 in “GOP meeting devolves to ruckus,”<sup>2</sup> the two motions, lawfully made and seconded, were passed with a majority of Territorial Committee members present and by proxy voting ‘aye,’ pursuant to article VIII, section I of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands. There was no motion for “division of the assembly,” pursuant to article XVI, section III of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands.

**The other gathering was an illegal meeting with no legal basis under party rules.**

**Fact:** A rump of seven Territorial Committee members illegally held a meeting<sup>3</sup> in clear violation of party rules following the adjournment of the lawfully noticed and lawfully conducted regular meeting of the Territorial Committee. By convening and participating in this illegal meeting, the rump maliciously used the name and legal identity of both the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands and the Territorial Committee to perpetrate a gross fraud.

**This illegal meeting had no quorum.**

**Fact:** Under article VI, section I of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, a meeting of the Territorial Committee is not lawful unless there are four members from St. Thomas/St. John and four members from St. Croix present, either in person or linked through “telecommunications facilities.”

**Fact:** Under article VII, section 2 of the *Rules & Principles* of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, “Proxies shall not be used to establish a quorum.” Participants in the illegal meeting claimed to have proxies, but the validity of these proxies, which presumably were given only for the 9 a.m. regular meeting, is suspect.

**Gwendolyn Hall Brady committed a ‘simple assault.’**

**Fact:** Territorial Committee member Warren Bruce Cole, an officer of the courts and member of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, was present following adjournment of the Territorial Committee’s meeting when Territorial Committee member Gwendolyn Hall Brady, the director of banking and insurance under Virgin Islands Lt. Gov. Osbert Potter, physically attacked the chairman’s parliamentarian. Officers of the Virgin Islands Police Department concluded the parliamentarian had been a victim of a “simple assault.” Ms. Brady’s physical attack was

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<sup>2</sup> Published in *The Virgin Islands Daily News* on April 18, 2016, and accessible at [http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/news/gop-meeting-devolves-to-ruckus/article\\_ebb88c06-0b82-5093-9a80-9c745f8fe66a.html](http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/news/gop-meeting-devolves-to-ruckus/article_ebb88c06-0b82-5093-9a80-9c745f8fe66a.html).

<sup>3</sup> The ‘final edit’ of an audio recording of the rump’s illegal meeting and fraudulent use of the name and legal identity of both the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands and the Territorial Committee was posted by Herb Schoenbohm, a felon convicted of fraud, at <https://soundcloud.com/herbert-l-schoenbohm/meeting-continuation-04162016-final-edit>.

witnessed by National Committeewoman O'Neal. Mr. Cole abandoned Ms. Brady in the parking lot of the small business where the regular meeting was held to assemble a rump of six other persons on the premises of his law office. The rump's illegal meeting maliciously used the name and legal identity of both the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands and the Territorial Committee to perpetrate a gross fraud. During this illegal meeting, the rump, at the behest of Mr. Cole, unanimously passed a motion defaming Territorial Committee member Frederick Espinosa based on demonstrably falsehoods of a defamatory nature. The 'final edit' of an audio recording of the rump's illegal meeting was posted by Herb Schoenbohm, a felon convicted of fraud, at <https://soundcloud.com/herbert-l-schoenbohm/meeting-continuation-04162016-final-edit>.

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