



LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Capitol Building P.O. Box 1690 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

**ADLAH "FONCIE"
DONASTORG**
Senator, 28th Legislature

Member, Committees on:

*Financial Services,
Infrastructure and Consumer
Affairs*

*Housing, Sports
and Veterans Affairs*

*Planning and
Environmental Protection*

May 28, 2009

The Honorable John de Jongh, Jr.
Governor
Government House
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas 00802

Dear Governor de Jongh,

I have grave concerns about what appears to be unfair and politically driven employment practices by your Administration. Several incidents of this have been brought to my attention, but most recently I was made privy to documents that clearly exemplify my concerns.

You will find attached Notice of Personnel Actions for two St. Croix employees that were laid off from the Department of Agriculture. According to their NOPAs, these employees were discharged in early November because the Federal grant funding their positions had been terminated. Each employee was paid \$30,000 per annum. However, in a letter to you from the Agriculture Department, these positions are listed as "Vacant" and, as such, the salaries combined to fund a new position at \$70,000 per annum.

I do not object to the hiring of this new employee, who by all accounts is well qualified, however it seems grossly unfair to the two individuals terminated. These men were told that there was no longer funding for their positions. If this is, indeed, the case why was the availability of these very same funds used as justification for hiring this new employee? This was an unfair and hypocritical action to terminate two less politically connected individuals in favor of one other.

I can site numerous examples of unfair employment practices by your Administration to include the April 16 granting of a 65 percent raise to a clerk at Property and Procurement holding a classified position. These types of actions erode the morale of hardworking Government employees and hurt the operations of our Government. I truly hope you will rethink your leadership style in the coming days and carefully review exactly what is taking place in regard to employment within your Administration.

Sincerely,

Adlah "Foncie" Donastorg