

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION**

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| IN RE |) | |
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| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF ST. |) | Docket No. 601 |
| JOHN, INC. AND VARLACK VENTURES, |) | PSC Order No. <u>58/2016</u> |
| INC. PETITION FOR RATE INCREASE |) | |
| _____ |) | |

ORDER

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2012, Transportation Services of St. John Inc. and Varlack Ventures, Inc. (hereinafter "Ferry Franchisees or Ferry Companies") submitted a report regarding the request and justification for an increase in fares to the Virgin Islands Public Services Commission (hereinafter "PSC" or the "Commission"); and

WHEREAS, at the July 19, 2012, meeting the Commission appointed Attorney Dolace N. McLean as Hearing Examiner to preside over the hearings for the Ferry Franchisees' Petition for an increase in rates; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2012, the Ferry Franchisees and the PSC staff submitted a Stipulation of Facts regarding the matters involved in the rate investigation proceedings and the related joint recommendation to the Hearing Examiner; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2013, and February 28, 2013, on the islands of St. John and St. Thomas respectively, public hearings were conducted to obtain comment and information from interested parties and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2013, the Commission received the Final Report and Recommendations from the Hearing Examiner; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2013, the Commission held a special meeting in the Commission's offices on both St. Thomas and St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands and voted to accept the Hearing Examiner's report and recommendations with amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Commission established PSC Order No. 51/2013 on August 23, 2013; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2016 the PSC staff submitted a written report dated June 24, 2016, to the Commission with the following recommendations:

1. That any photo ID issued by the VI Government be acceptable for locals to have the reduced ferry rate

2. That anyone under eighteen (18) years of age who does not have a valid VI Government ID can get the reduced rate if he or she is traveling with a parent or guardian who does have the appropriate ID.
3. That a sign be posted at the Red Hook Terminal and Cruz Bay Terminal that lists the above referenced criteria for qualifying for the reduced rate
4. That a sign be posted at the Red Hook Terminal and Cruz Bay Terminal that states that if any passenger has a complaint with the ferry companies that he may contact the Public Services Commission at the listed office numbers in St. Thomas or St. John.
5. That these recommendations be implemented immediately; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2016, the Commission held a regular meeting in the Commission's offices on both St. Thomas and St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, upon review and deliberation the Commission voted to amend Docket 601 to include the PSC staff recommendations from the June 24, 2016, report; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission finds and orders:

1. That the Ferry Companies accept any photo ID issued by the VI Government be acceptable for locals to have the reduced resident ferry rate
2. That anyone under eighteen (18) years of age who does not have a valid VI Government ID can get the reduced resident rate if he or she is traveling with a parent or guardian who does have the appropriate ID.
3. That a sign be posted at the Red Hook Terminal and Cruz Bay Terminal that lists the above referenced criteria for qualifying for the reduced resident rate.
4. That a sign be posted at the Red Hook Terminal and Cruz Bay Terminal that states that if any passenger has a complaint with the ferry companies that he may contact the Public Services Commission at the listed office numbers in St. Thomas or St. John.
5. That these recommendations be implemented immediately.

So Ordered.

For Commission



Andrew Rutnik, Vice Chair

Dated: July 8, 2016