



CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

## GOP Territorial Committee Meets and Fills Vacancies

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(April, 16, 2016)—Three vacancies on the Territorial Committee of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands were filled Saturday morning during a regular meeting held on both St. Croix and St. Thomas. It was attended by a super majority of members.

Garfield Doran, Jevon Williams and David Johnson were appointed by Republican Chairman John Canegata and ratified by the Territorial Committee. The ratification motion was made by Territorial Committee member Frederick Espinosa and seconded by Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal, the Virgin Islands national committeewoman on the Republican National Committee.

"We are focused on growing the GOP across the islands and fighting to ensure a better, brighter future for our children and grandchildren," said Canegata.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve not only the party, but the next generation of Virgin Islanders," said Williams, who served nine years in the U.S. armed services and returned home from Afghanistan in 2015. He fills the vacancy caused by the death of longtime Territorial Committee member Martin Merrick.

Johnson and Doran, both members of the Virgin Islands delegation to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, take the seats of James Bland and Patti Bland, who moved to Tennessee.

"As a businessman, I know the challenges that innovators, entrepreneurs and job-creators face," said Johnson, a local businessman. "The party's message of opportunity allows businesses to thrive and workers to prosper."

Doran emphasized the importance of rejuvenating the party, saying: "Chairman Canegata has made outreach and inclusion his major priority. I am committed to taking our message everywhere in the Virgin Islands."

All three members will serve through the primary election in August. Under Virgin Islands law, Republican primary election voters directly elect the Territorial Committee. No further business was conducted during the meeting.

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