

ACT NO. 8940

BILL NO. 35-0273

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2024

An Act honoring and commending Ronald Alphonso "Slimo" Blyden posthumously for his years of service and contributions to the Virgin Islands community; renaming Flamboyant Avenue in Estate Anna's Retreat, the "Ronald Alphonso "Slimo" Blyden Drive" and naming the cul de sac containing house addresses 129-27 through 129-34 Estate Anna's Retreat, "Slimo Circle" in his honor; and appropriating \$10,000 from the District Public Road Fund to the Department of Public Works to erect the proper signage

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WHEREAS, Ronald Alphonso Blyden was born on August 7, 1937 on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to Terrance Blyden, Sr. and Beulah Phillips Blyden; and

WHEREAS, he was the second of nine children and the first boy born of the union; and

WHEREAS, due to his slender physique, he was affectionately known from an early age as "Slimo"; and

WHEREAS, Slimo was educated in the public school system of the Virgin Islands, and in 1956, began working at the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Slimo met his wife, Eleanor R. Penn, at the Department of Education and they were married on June 7, 1957; and

WHEREAS, Slimo worked in the tourism sector during the boom in the 1960s, working at renowned hotels such as Blackbeard's Castle, Bluebeard's Castle, and the Virgin Isle Hotel; and

WHEREAS, he was the father of two children, LaVerne "LaVie" Cecilia Blyden and Ronald "Ronnie" Blyden Jr., father-in-law to Barbara Connor Blyden, grandfather to LaMont Ronald Joseph, and great-grandfather to Amir Joseph and LaVonte' Joseph; and

WHEREAS, he was a dedicated and devoted family man, giving much to his community; and

WHEREAS, Slimo dedicated 36 years of exemplary service as a Graphic Arts Specialist in the public school system, retiring on September 30, 1992, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and commitment; and

WHEREAS, alongside his professional career, Slimo pursued freelance photography, capturing the joyous moments of people's lives such as weddings, graduations, and proms; and

WHEREAS, Slimo's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish the popular nightclub and discotheque, "SLIMO'S," which became a favorite gathering place for the young and young at heart for several years; and

WHEREAS, Slimo's passion for driving and his ownership of a coveted 1967 Plymouth Satellite convertible made him the sought-after chauffeur for weddings, parades, and for esteemed visitors to St. Thomas, including his memorable association with Puerto Rico's baseball superstar, the late Roberto Clemente; and

WHEREAS, Slimo was connected to many neighborhoods in St. Thomas, including Upstreet, Savan, Garden Street, Down Street, Long Path, Solberg, and Mafolie which contributed to his widespread popularity among Virgin Islanders; however, he was committed to and involved in the Estate Anna's Retreat, Old Tutu community where he resided with his family; and

WHEREAS, Slimo's family was one of the original households in the community that was established in 1964, and eventually came to be known as "Old Tutu"; and

WHEREAS, Slimo's home was the entry point and a centerpiece for the "Old Tutu" community where residents would gather for entertainment and have exchanges that enhanced the posture of the "Old Tutu" neighborhood in general; and

WHEREAS, Slimo garnered the admiration and respect of the youth and the older residents in "Old Tutu" to the point where he was referred to as "The Mayor"; and

WHEREAS, Slimo strongly influenced the maintenance of an immaculate "Old Tutu" neighborhood by his constant monitoring and cleaning of the roadways and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Slimo passed away on October 7, 2000; Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, honors and commends Ronald Alphonso "Slimo" Blyden posthumously for his many years of service and contributions to the Virgin Islands community. In recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the Virgin Islands community, the President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall present a perma plaque copy of this act to the family of the late Ronald Alphonso "Slimo" Blyden at an appropriate ceremony.

SECTION 2. The road from the entrance of Estate Anna's Retreat beginning at the traffic light at Four Winds Plaza continuing to the Alvin McBean Ballpark currently named "Flamboyant Avenue", is renamed the "Ronald Alphonso "Slimo" Blyden Circle". The cul de

sac containing house addresses 129-27 through 129-34 of Estate Anna's Retreat is named "Slimo's Circle".

SECTION 3. (a) Notwithstanding the use restriction of title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 111, section 3002, subsection (c), the sum of \$10,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, from the District Public Road Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, to erect the proper signage designating the "Ronald Alphonso "Slimo" Blyden Circle" and "Slimo's Circle" as provided in section 2.

(b) The funds appropriated in subsection (a) remain available until expended.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on November 20, 2024.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 21st day of November, A.D., 2024.




Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
President


Carla J. Joseph
Secretary



Bill No. 35-0273 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 25th day of November 2024 A.D.


Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor