

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

11/20/2024-SPECIAL ORDERED

11/18/2024-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 35-0273

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

May 31, 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 making a \$10,000 appropriation from the District Public Road Fund to the Department of Public Works to erect the proper signage

PROPOSED BY: Senators Donna A. Frett-Gregory and Milton E. Potter

1 **WHEREAS**, Ronald Alphonso Blyden was born on August 7, 1937 on St. Thomas,

2 Virgin Islands, to Terrance Blyden, Sr. and Beulah Phillips Blyden; and

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

4 **WHEREAS**, due to his slender physique, he was affectionately known from an early age

5 as “Slimo”; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Slimo was educated in the public school system of the Virgin Islands, and

7 in 1956, began working at the Department of Education; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 1956, Slimo met his wife, Eleanor R. Penn, at the Department of

9 Education and they were married on June 7, 1957; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Slimo worked in the tourism sector during the boom in the 1960s, working

11 at renowned hotels such as Blackbeard's Castle, Bluebeard's Castle, and the Virgin Isle Hotel;

12 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 **WHEREAS**, Slimo strongly influenced the maintenance of an immaculate “Old Tutu”
7 neighborhood by his constant monitoring and cleaning of the roadways and surrounding areas;
8 and

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

10 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

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

17 **SECTION 2.** The road from the entrance of Estate Anna's Retreat beginning at the traffic
18 light at Four Winds Plaza continuing to the Alvin McBean Ballpark currently named
19 “Flamboyant Avenue”, is renamed the “Ronald Alphonso “Slimo” Blyden Circle”. The cul de
20 sac containing house addresses 129-27 through 129-34 of Estate Anna's Retreat is named
21 “Slimo's Circle”.

22 **SECTION 3.** (a) Notwithstanding the use restriction of title 33 Virgin Islands Code,
23 chapter 111, section 3002, subsection (c), the sum of \$10,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year
24 ending September 30, 2024, from the District Public Road Fund to the Virgin Islands

1 Department of Public Works, to erect the proper signage designating the “Ronald Alphonso
2 “Slimo” Blyden Circle” and “Slimo’s Circle” as provided in section 2.

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

4 **BILL SUMMARY**

5 This bill honors and commends Ronald Alphonso “Slimo” Blyden posthumously for his
6 many years of service and contributions to the Virgin Islands community. The bill also renames
7 the road from the entrance of Estate Anna's Retreat beginning at the light by Four Winds Plaza
8 until the Alvin McBean Ballpark currently named “Flamboyant Avenue”, the “Ronald
9 Alphonso “Slimo” Blyden Circle”, and names the cul de sac containing house addresses 129-
10 27 through 129-34 of Estate Anna's Retreat, “Slimo's Circle”. The bill further appropriates
11 \$10,000 from the District Public Road Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works
12 to erect the proper signage.

13 **BR24-1061/April 10, 2024/GC**