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Bryan's Defining Consortium Interview Rescheduled for March 26 After Administration Requests Delay

Originally scheduled for Wednesday night, the interview between Governor Albert Bryan Jr. and V.I. Consortium founder and publisher Ernice Gilbert has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 26, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Government House on St. Croix.

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Update: The interview between V.I. Consortium founder and publisher Ernice Gilbert and Governor Albert Bryan Jr., originally scheduled for tonight, has been postponed at the administration's request and rescheduled for Thursday, March 26, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Government House on St. Croix.

Original Story: After years of headline-making interviews that have tracked Governor Albert Bryan Jr.'s tenure through promise, crisis, controversy and defense, V.I. Consortium founder and publisher Ernice Gilbert will sit down with the governor tonight for what is expected to be a defining conversation following Bryan's final State of the Territory Address as governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The interview is scheduled for Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Government House on St. Croix.

For the Consortium audience, the significance of the moment is not simply that another interview is taking place. It is that this one follows Bryan's last State of the Territory Address of his administration, delivered Jan. 26, when he presented his seven-year record as one shaped by crisis management, economic growth, debt reduction, pension stabilization, recovery work, infrastructure investment and the difficult questions he said would be left for the next administration.

Over the years, Consortium interviews with Bryan have repeatedly served as moments when broad policy themes from official speeches gave way to direct questioning on what residents were actually experiencing. In May 2019, one of the earliest major sit-downs after Bryan took office focused on issues including the planned use of a \$39.5 million Medicaid reimbursement, his leadership style, WAPA and school consolidation. In 2021, the Consortium described another Gilbert-Bryan sit-down as the third such interview since Bryan took office.

That pattern continued as Bryan's administration moved deeper into its term. In January 2023, Bryan joined Gilbert after his fifth State of the Territory Address to expand on the themes raised in his speech, and Consortium follow-up coverage described him as responding to pressing questions during the interview. Later that year, another Consortium interview included discussion of personal matters, derelict buildings and the Department of Education.

By 2024, the tone around some of those interviews had shifted more sharply toward public unease and political pressure. Consortium coverage from late August described Bryan defending his record amid concerns about what the article called "unlivable conditions" in the Virgin Islands, while another report days later said the governor reflected on ongoing federal probes as "a real black eye for the territory."

Then in June 2025 came one of the most contentious exchanges of Bryan's tenure with the Consortium, a 90-minute interview in which he defended controversial salary increases, rejected claims of secrecy, praised his administration's performance and signaled a likely legal fight over legislative resistance. The interview and follow-up reporting pushed directly into one of the most politically sensitive debates of his final years in office.

Tonight's conversation comes with all of that history behind it, but also with fresh issues now pressing on Bryan's administration. Since his final State of the Territory Address, the governor has publicly pushed for WAPA rate relief and broader reforms, argued for a merger of the V.I. Lottery and Casino Control Commission, launched a territory-wide effort to document the impact of new postal fees on small packages, and warned that the escalating Middle East conflict could drive up fuel and electricity costs in the Virgin Islands.

Those developments suggest that tonight's interview is likely to do more than revisit familiar talking points. It will come at a time when Virgin Islanders are still weighing Bryan's closing case for his administration against unresolved concerns over energy costs, affordability, public services, economic pressure, governance, and the legacy he leaves behind. Consortium readers and viewers who have followed these interviews over the years have seen them become more than

ceremonial check-ins; they have often produced the clearest picture of how the governor explains his decisions when faced with sustained questioning.

With Bryan now in the final stretch of his governorship, tonight's exchange carries added weight. It is expected to revisit the major themes of his last State of the Territory Address, but also test them against the record, the criticism, and the realities residents continue to confront across the territory. For an administration now approaching its conclusion, and for a public still demanding answers on the issues that shape daily life, the interview is poised to be one of the most important one-on-one conversations of Bryan's time in office.

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