

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VI Public Employees Relations Board Thanks Senate For Raise, Seeks Over \$1 Million In Funding

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Meeting with senators of the Committee on Finance on Wednesday, the V.I. Public Employees Relations Board outlined its goal for fiscal year 2015, and requested a budget of \$1,106,370.

It's the same amount that has been requested for the last two years, and will be allotted by the Union Arbitration Award and Government Employees Increment Fund, according to PERB Executive Director Zandra Petersen.

Petersen also revealed that the PERB's most pressing needs are video conferencing equipment that would assist in the ongoing cost-reduction measures at the department,

as it would help reduce travel expenditures.

"Our most important goal for this fiscal year is the purchase and installation of video conferencing equipment," she said.

Petersen also revealed that the past fiscal year saw PERB purchasing all required equipment to seamlessly integrate new technologies that save cost and improve communication, an initiative that is currently ongoing at various branches of government.

The Director also thanked the legislature for raising the salaries for her department and mentioned that the requested budget, amongst other things, would help support the salaries of PERB's 12 full-time staff.

"The salary increase was a great moral boost to our most valuable assets -- our employees," she said.