

The Virgin Islands Consortium

No Horse Racing During Agrifest Weekend; But Lots Of Activities To Support, Senator Says

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ST. CROIX -- After learning that this President's Day weekend will be void of traditional horses racing activities on this island, Senate President Neville James, despite his disappointment at this unfortunate turn of events, is still encouraging community members and visitors to rally behind other major activities for the long weekend, such as the 2016 Agriculture and Food Fair.

Traditionally, the Agriculture and Food Fair shares the 3-day holiday weekend with a series of horse races at the big island's Randall "Doc" James Racetrack. Due to two contractual disagreements between the Flamboyant Horsemen Association Inc. and TRAXCO, Inc., and the Government and TRAXCO, Inc., there have been no

announcements made for the much anticipated races, according to Mr. James.

"I know that every year residents, especially my fellow Crucians, look forward to this time-honored event, and I am utterly frustrated by the inconsideration that has transpired in regards to the people who enjoy the sport, the annual event in general, and the cultural significance that it carries," said Mr. James. "The long-standing tradition of horse-racing in this territory was dismissed and disrespected, and I am going to do everything in my power to ensure that this does not happen again."

In spite of the regrettable news, the senate president emphasized that there is still much to celebrate during the holiday weekend. He acknowledged the many victories in the agricultural community that deserve recognition, including the territory's recovery from a debilitating drought.

"It goes without saying that horse racing in this territory falls in line with the cultural values that we, as Virgin Islanders, observe at the AgFair. They are one in the same because they define who we are." James said. "Therefore, I strongly encourage that we show up in droves to support our local farmers, culinary artists and cultural vendors in commemoration of that symbiotic relationship this weekend. I, with great anticipation, look forward to seeing everyone there."