



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Justice  
Mr. D.L. Richardson  
Administration Building  
Clem Labega Square  
**Philipsburg**

UV/028/2015-2016

Philipsburg, September 17, 2015

Re: Request MP Tamara E. Leonard

Hon. Minister Richardson,

Enclosed herewith please find a copy of the request submitted by Member of Parliament Tamara E. Leonard requesting you implement an similar approach as during this year's Carnival season to curb juvenile delinquency during Carnival 2016. I refer further to the attached letter for briefness sake.

Based on article 62 of the Constitution and article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten, I kindly request that you look into this matter as soon as possible.

Your cooperation in this is highly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Lloyd Richardson, MD  
President of Parliament



From the Desk of

*Tamara E. Leonard*

Member of Parliament

Ministry of Justice  
attn: Mr. Dennis L. Richardson, Minister  
A. Th. Illidge Road  
Philipsburg  
Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, September 15, 2015

Dear Minister Richardson,

For the past two years I have taken every opportunity afforded to voice my concerns about the increasing amount of youngsters on the street and in adult, Carnival related activities. Over the past year in particular several persons have also voiced the concern via social media and print media about this growing trend.

Needless to say, I believe government bears partial responsibility in safeguarding the children of the country, while the ultimate responsibility lies with parents. I do not believe that Carnival and its traditional activities should suffer, as some have suggested, by limiting its activities which in turn limits our local artists and musicians, depriving them of much needed funds.

Instead, I would recommend that in your capacity as Minister of Justice, you implement a similar approach as was used this past Carnival by the Police Department in curbing juvenile delinquency during Carnival. Use a model that would issue fines to neglectful parents whose children are out on the street without responsible, adult supervision.

The St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF) has already passed a new regulation for Carnival 2016 and beyond that would impose age restrictions for Carnival Village. Combined with fines on the road, these efforts by the SCDF can be good first steps in achieving what all parties want to achieve without negatively affecting Carnival itself.

Parents owe a duty of care to their children and they must understand that they can be held legally liable for any harm that may befall their child once it has been discovered that they were negligent in discharging their responsibilities.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and giving this issue serious attention together with the Police Department and the SCDF and issuing directives via an MB in the months prior to Carnival.

Respectfully,

Ms. Tamara E. Leonard  
Member of Parliament

TEL/wit

## Linette A. Gibs

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**From:** Nancy Joubert <nancy.joubert@sxmparliament.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015 3:56 PM  
**To:** SXM STA Linette Gibs  
**Cc:** SXM STA Ann Groen-Gumbs  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to MinJUS regarding Carnival  
**Attachments:** letter MinJUS re Carnival.pdf

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**From:** Tamara Leonard [mailto:tleonard1974@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015 4:01 PM  
**To:** Nancy Joubert  
**Subject:** Letter to MinJUS regarding Carnival

Dear Nancy, I trust this email finds you well.

Reference is made to the attached for forwarding to the Chairman, with the request to kindly present to the respective Ministers in accordance with the procedures.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Kind regards,  
MP Tamara