



Police (Civilian Oversight) Authority

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NEWS RELEASE

PCOA BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND IN CLARENDON TO HOST PUBLIC FORUM ON MARCH 4

KINGSTON, February 23:

Given the positive response from the residents of the Clarendon to the previous forum held last year, the Police (Civilian Oversight) Authority (PCOA) will be making a return visit to the parish to host a second public forum on Wednesday, March 4 at the St. Gabriel's Anglican Church Hall at 10 Church Street in May Pen.

The Forum, which will be held under the theme: *Transforming the Jamaica Constabulary Force to a Police Service that is Responsive to Community Needs*, will again offer ways through public discussion to address many of the issues and concerns that were raised at the previous forum on December 4, 2008.

“From all reports it is profoundly clear that the persons who attended the last forum in December welcomed the opportunity to not only express their needs and offer suggestions to improve the relationship between the police and the communities but also, to learn more about our organisation's role in facilitating the process,” newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Dave M. McIntosh said.

This time around, the Commissioner of Police, Rear Admiral Hardley Lewin, will be on hand to address issues and concerns arising from the previous forum. These include: the closure/downgrading of the Police Station in Exeter; re-energizing of police youth clubs and allotment of more police vehicles for patrol in the parish among others.

The event will also mark one of the first speaking engagements by Governor- General Designate, Dr. Patrick Allen, who will be guest speaker.

The PCOA welcomes all citizens to this occasion and particularly, the communities of Clarendon. The PCOA also reminds that it will accept representations from the communities

concerning any complaints against the Police and invite comments and evaluation of the performance and delivery of service by Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and its Auxiliaries in the parish.

The PCOA was established by an Act of Parliament in 2005 as a mechanism to support outside scrutiny and accountability of the JCF and its Auxiliaries to all citizens of Jamaica. So far, the PCOA has hosted forums in Savanna-La-Mar, Westmoreland and Montego Bay, St. James in addition to the previous forum in May Pen, Clarendon.

The Authority is charged with the legal duty to monitor the implementation of policy of the JCF and its Auxiliaries; monitor the standard of performance of all police throughout the island to ensure that internationally acceptable standards of policing are maintained and to report on such matters and conduct inspections of the Force and the Auxiliaries among other duties.