



**PRESS STATEMENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Changes coming for Police Divisional Borders – Minister Chang**

To make policing more efficient and effective, and in keeping with the significant challenges posed by increased population and urbanization, reconfiguration of the divisional boundaries of the Jamaica Constabulary Force has become a necessity.

The disclosure was made earlier today (June 1, 2022) by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr Horace Chang, during his Sectoral Debate presentation in Parliament.

He said while the police are organised into five geographic areas, which have retained their original boundaries despite population changes, and while much has been done in institutional restructuring, **“there are several critical changes that have become necessary in establishing good public order throughout the country and we believe that these changes are one such”**.

The new configuration will see the six Corporate Area divisions and St. Thomas becoming the new Metropolitan Region.

The police divisions of St. Catherine and Clarendon would become a new Area. Meanwhile, increased population, commercialization and industrial activities, as well as the changing dynamics in criminality, will require modifications to the current Area One – St James, m Westmoreland, Hanover and Trelawny.

**“Therefore, these parishes would justify their administration, as we seek to quell the violence that has gripped that part of the country,”** Minister Chang said, pointing out that Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and Manchester will form a new police Area, leaving a new look Area One encompassing St James, Hanover and Trelawny.

Minister Chang stated in addition, a proposal for the establishment of the Kingston and St. Andrew Metropolitan Portfolio.

This, according to the Minister, will be in line with municipalities the world over, which have long recognized the need for the unification of policing services within their metropolitan areas, aimed at achieving greater operational efficiency.

Although operating in close proximity, the divisions within Kingston and St. Andrew have six (6) independent divisional headquarters, each having separate command structures, deployment arrangements, operational strategies and communication frameworks.

**“This mode of operation creates silos, and poses significant challenges to effective coordination and command and control and as a result, a suitable location to house the portfolio headquarters has been identified, while the concept has received approval from the Public Investment Management Committee.**

Minister Chang said that while criminals operate seamlessly across policing divisions within the Corporate Area, **“there is no way that law enforcement efforts should be constrained by geographic boundaries”**.