



**PRESS RELEASE
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Quality partnerships vital to sustaining crime prevention efforts

The recently launched Matilda's Corner District Consultative Committee (DCC) embodies the Ministry of National Security's steadfast commitment to promote positive and robust relationships between the police and the citizenry, asserts Permanent Secretary Courtney Williams.

“This quality of partnership at the community level, plays a significant role in sustaining crime prevention efforts, and is therefore in the best interest of the police and law abiding citizens towards achieving the greater good for the communities in particular, as well as for the wider Jamaica,” he said. The Permanent Secretary was delivering remarks at the launch of the DCC in St Andrew. This is the 9th such launch of a Consultative Committee in St. Andrew, since Custos Rotulorum, Hon. Dr. Patricia Dunwell accepted the Ministry of National Security's call in 2016 to spearhead the important initiative.

This collaborative approach, according to Williams, has become even more necessary amid the devastating impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Jamaica and the associated challenges with sustaining the spirit of community. This has resulted in continued high levels of violence among family members, against the elderly and innocent children as well as those involved in intimate relationships.

The Permanent Secretary mentioned that the Ministry's security architecture continues to coordinate and implement initiatives geared towards promoting public order and citizen security to include, the strengthening of operational strategies and institutional transformation, legislative amendments to enhance the relevance and robustness of the regulatory and enforcement frameworks, intensified strategies to combat the illegal trafficking of weapons, ammunition, and people along with improved coordination of delivering social investment to the most vulnerable with a focus on boys and young men.

Mr. Williams pointed out that even though there have been relatively few episodes of extreme violence in the 15 communities served by the Matildas Corner Police Station, the issue of robbery remains a great concern.

He said that for the period January 1 - March 31, 2020, there was a total of 21 reported Category One Crimes which include murder, shooting, rape, aggravated assault, robbery and break-ins. However, for the same period this year there were 12 cases resulting in a 61% decline. **“It is the view of the MNS that such sizeable reduction is largely the resultant outcome of the**



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enhancement of the capacity of the police to better respond and carry out investigations as well as the strengthening of relationship between the police and citizens,” Mr. Williams stated.

In using the Ministry of National Security’s anti-violence slogan, **LIV GUD**, the Permanent Secretary charged representatives of the 15 communities to do likewise, as we aim to make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

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