April 14th, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE
CoP reminds banks, supermarkets to adhere to social distancing guidelines

Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith, is reminding the business community of the guidelines relating to social distancing as the country fights the invisible COVID-19 virus.

Three weeks ago, the CoP made it quite clear of the authority given to the Police Service with regard to persons/businesses/banks not adhering to the guidelines laid down in the amendments to the Public Health Ordinance. He said then that if banks, supermarkets, pharmacies and markets do not comply, he would have no choice but to temporarily close those specific places if it can save lives.

The CoP says that Section 133 of the Public Health Ordinance gives the Police the authority to enter upon land or building to save lives.

Commissioner Griffith said he received video footage at 8 am today, April 14th, 2020, of a large crowd numbering about 100 persons gathered together in a small cluster outside First Citizens' Bank, Marabella, risking their lives, so they could be first in the line when the bank opened. At that time, there were no security or banking officials outside the bank to ensure that the guidelines were met.

The CoP says he is holding those in authority responsible to ensure that persons adhere to the guidelines as laid down by the Ministry of Health. If they do not assist with ensuring that these guidelines are met, the CoP would have no choice but to close these buildings until they comply.

PLEASE SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS.

Corporate Communications Unit
April 14th, 2020

END