



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **CoP meets with Barataria/San Juan MP, Business Association**

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Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith, met with the Member of Parliament for Barataria/San Juan, Saddam Hosein, and members of the San Juan Business Association (SJBA) today to discuss concerns over the realignment of the Barataria Police Station.

The meeting was held at the Police Administration Building, Port-of-Spain on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

During the discussion, the SJBA raised concerns over the possible closure of the Barataria Police Station and the consequences thereof.

Commissioner Griffith allayed these concerns, reinforcing to the SJBA that the Barataria Police Station will not be closed, however, realigned to treat with specific aspects of crime and criminality.

The CoP stressed that this is in keeping with international best practices and is aligned with the transformation of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) into 21<sup>st</sup> century policing.

The repurposing of Barataria Police Station is underway to give housing to virtual courts and other specialised units, such as the Gender Based Violence Unit and Sexual Investigations Unit.

The CoP underscored that the obsolete physical reporting of crime is not necessary, especially since the launch of the TTPS App and Online Reporting which directs all reports of crime to the designated units to be investigated and treated with.

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The Commissioner encouraged the SJBA and its burgesses to utilise these platforms in order to access the services of the TTPS.

Senior Superintendent of Police, North Eastern Division (NED), Winston Maharaj, echoed the sentiments of the Commissioner while revealing his new plans to treat with the concerns of the Association.

On the issue of traffic congestion and police visibility, particularly throughout heavily-trafficked, commercialised areas, the Senior Superintendent said that on Friday 11th September, 2020, the NED will be revamping its Traffic and Patrol Unit which will focus primarily on decongesting traffic and policing errant road users. These foot patrols will also have a calculated approach to businesses and their security.

Snr Supt Maharaj pledged that the NED's senior officers will be on the ground to treat with all concerns and will engage burgesses on how to easily use the TTPS' online platforms.

All parties agreed to work in harmony as the transformation of the Barataria Police Station continues.

Also present at the meeting were Superintendent, Administration, NED, Sherma Maynard-Wilson, Public Relations Officer (SJBA), Abraham Ali, Local Government and Community Officer (SJBA), Steve Atwaroo and Assistant Treasurer (SJBA), Glenroy McIntosh and Barataria/San Juan MPs Communications Officer, Swasti Gosein.

**SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTO**

**Corporate Communications Unit**

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**END**

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