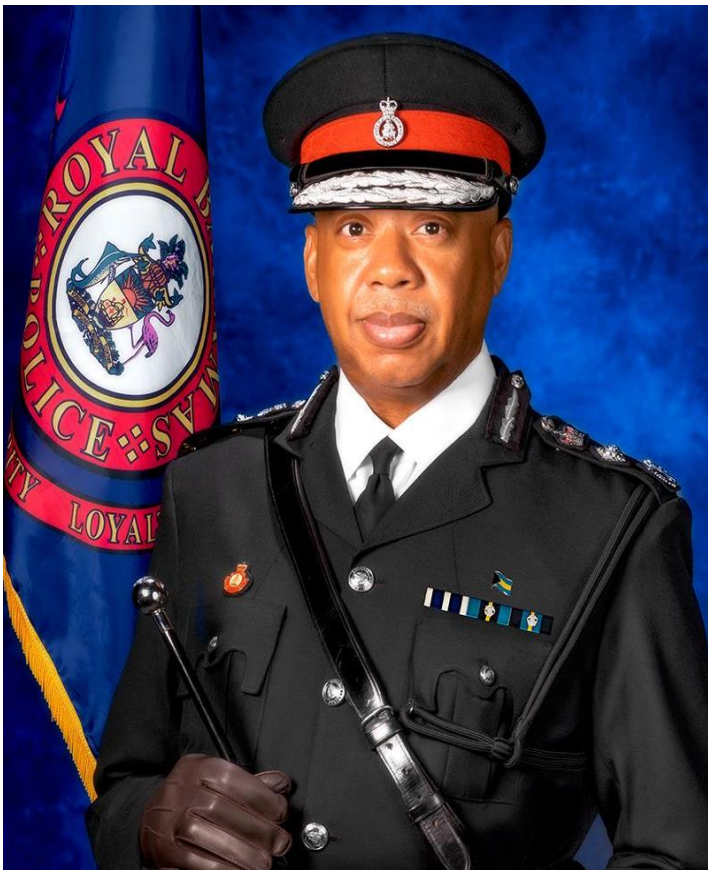


Commissioner's Police Month Message



Mr. Clayton L. Fernander, CD, QPM
Commissioner of Police
Royal Bahamas Police Force

The Royal Bahamas Police Force is charged with ensuring the safety of all citizens, residents and visitors through the maintenance of law and order, prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of all laws. Keeping The Bahamas safe where families can live, work and play without fear of falling victim to crime is indeed a herculean task. Yet, as officers with authority we are required to do even more according to Luke 12:48 who posits "...the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." While our overall crime statistics indicate a downward trend in crime, we are challenged with murder incidents that drive the fear of crime. Notwithstanding, the Force is well equipped to hold the line and remain 110% committed to bringing perpetrators to swift justice in this fight against crime because Galatians 6:9 tells us "...not to grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up."

It is my honor to lead this noble Organization of distinguished officers that was built to persevere on the tenets of courage, loyalty and integrity transcended by our forefathers. It is a greater privilege to serve the Bahamian people in the capacity as the 9th Commissioner of Police in an Independent Bahamas. I acknowledge Our Heavenly Father in all things and seek his spiritual guidance in navigating the Force as Commander in Chief. As we commemorate Police Month 2024, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we acknowledge all those who have contributed to the illustrious history of the Force while "Celebrating 184 years of dedicated service to the Bahamian Public."

Since March 1, 1840 the Force has built a rich tapestry of service to country that represents a pillar of strength to the Bahamian society. The legacy of the Force stands on the bedrock of trust and respect which embodies our human resources. From the tireless efforts of our valiant pioneers who laid the groundwork for success, to the dedicated officers who continue to carry the torch of justice forward, each chapter of our reputation and resilience is predicated on creating safe communities. Accordingly, we continue to evolve as an Organization adapting and embracing change where necessary to contend with constant threats and trends of 21st Century criminals.

Today, we are saluting the magnificent officers of the Force and the agenda of events for Police Month include a Church Service, Urban Renewal Community Walkabouts, Police Operations, Family Fun Day, and a Boat Cruise. Notwithstanding our celebrations, policing the Commonwealth of The Bahamas is our 1st priority. We are keenly aware of the crime pattern theory which postulates "...crime will occur if an area provides the opportunity for crime." Therefore, we have realigned our strategies under the "clear, hold and build" philosophy to extinguish the criminal element.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of the Royal Bahamas Police Force for their daily sacrifice and stellar service to the Nation. We have endured and overcome formidable challenges time and time again based on arduous work and professionalism. We have achieved so much over the past 184 years because we remained unwavering in the crime fight fostering partnerships, cooperation and collaboration with communities which is essential to our success. As we observe this milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the proud traditions and gallant ideals that have guided us throughout history. Together, we will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.