PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 15**
**Answered on 27th June, 2025**
**First Meeting 2025-2026 Session - First Sitting**

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**
**ASKED BY**

**MR. ROY TATUM, MP – ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF RED BAY**

**TO**

**THE HON. FRANZ I. MANDERSON, EX-OFFICIO MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PORTFOLIO OF THE CIVIL SERVICE**

**QUESTION:**

Can the Honourable Deputy Governor confirm whether the Commissioner of Police intends to strengthen and enhance the operational capacity of the Community Policing Department?

**ANSWER:**

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for Red Bay for the question.

I can confirm that the Commissioner of Police, in alignment with national priorities and the strategic objectives of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS), **fully intends to strengthen and enhance** the operational capacity of the Community Policing Unit.

This commitment is balanced against several critical resourcing challenges, including funding constraints that have impacted the ability to scale operations at pace. While there is strong political and organisational will to grow this capability, the RCIPS continues to operate within a tightly managed budget, requiring careful prioritisation of personnel, training and infrastructure investments.

**Additional key challenges include:**

- Recruitment and Retention Constraints – There is growing competition for skilled officers locally, regionally, and internationally, and the RCIPS is not immune to workforce pressures and attrition.
- Training and Capability Gaps – Ensuring that community officers are not only present but fully equipped and trained in conflict resolution, youth engagement, and culturally sensitive practices remains a strategic priority.

- Rising demand for Visibility and Public Trust – Public expectation for visible policing and responsiveness continues to grow, particularly in response to recent spikes in anti-social behaviour, drug-related crime, and domestic incidents.

  Despite these constraints, I wish to assure the Honourable House that **Community Policing is central to the Commissioner's long-term operational vision**. In fact, steps are already underway to:

  - Undertake a comprehensive review of community policing deployment across districts to improve alignment with crime patterns and community needs.
  - Integrate community teams into broader problem-solving partnerships with education, social services, and youth empowerment to address root causes of crime and disorder.
  - Expand training in preventative policing, safeguarding, and vulnerable persons engagement as part of a more intelligence-led and community-empowered model.

To support these aims, the Commissioner has established a small internal project team that is actively engaging with the Portfolio of the Civil Service to explore workforce development pathways, including targeted recruitment, succession planning, and better use of Community Safety Officers, interns, and volunteers.

Ultimately, the goal is to evolve the Community Policing Unit into a resilient, embedded, and proactive presence in every community, empowered not just to respond to crime, but to prevent harm and build public confidence.

The RCIPS remains committed to transparency, accountability, and prudent resource management as it delivers on this vital area of public safety.