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VOL. 30 - NO. 143

"CARNIVAL CAUSES MORAL DAMAGE"

Pastor BlamesBoth governments

BY LICEC BASTIAN

Journal Staff Writer

"The government has facilitated the moral decline of the country with Carnival." This is the firm position Pastor Cedric Moss of Kingdom Life Church. The Pastor's statement comes just days before the three-day Carnival Experience, scheduled for this coming weekend in New Providence. He said that although the Free National Movement government is not funding the event, it is still facilitating moral and social decline in the country.

The outspoken Pastor said," in a few days, barring

divine intervention, the moral sensibilities of an overwhelming majority of Bahamians will be assaulted by the public nudity, brazen vulgarity and unbridled debauchery of carnival.

"Thousands are planning to descend on our streets and in our public spaces, determined to be on their worst behaviours, as they debase themselves without any regard for the young or respect for the old. And once again, they will put on pornographic parades and shows in breach of our public decency laws, as the police look helplessly on."

See MORAL DAMAGE / page 2...



▶ Pastor Cedric Moss of Kingdom Life Church (Journal file photo)

BUSINESS OWNERS EXPRESS CONCERNS ON GOV'T INITIATIVE

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK

Journal Staff Writer

Business owners in New Providence are applauding The Over the Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative of the Minnis administration. However they say there are many concerns that must be addressed and clarified in the incentive.

See GOV'T INITIATIVE / page 4...



 Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands (Journal file photo)

SANDS:"Nurses Under Appreciated"

BY LICEC BASTIAN

Journal Staff Writer

Despite the challenge the country faced on Monday, when public sector nurses chose to stage a sick out, Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands has acknowledged that nurses have been under appreciated, and that they should be shown that their services are valuable.

See NURSES UNDER / page 2...

BOATMAN MISSING OFF ELEUTHERA

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK

Journal Staff Writer

Eleuthera police are searching for a man reportedly missing at sea.

According to reports, shortly after 9:00am on Tuesday, a man, believed to be a Haitian National, left Spanish Wells in a 17' white Carolina skiff en route to neighbouring Max Patch Cay and has not been seen or heard from since.

Shortly after 9:00am Wednesday, the boat was recovered washed ashore on Max Patch Cay, with the personal belongings of the missing man.

However, he was not located. Police are appealing to boaters in the area of North Eleuthera to be on the lookout for the man. Investigations are ongoing.

Meanwhile, Cat Island police have a man in custody after recovering 1 kelogram of cocaine in his possession.

According to reports, shortly after 9:00am on Wednesday, Cat Island Division Officers, while at New Bight Airport, conducted a search of a man and his belongings and recovered a quantity of suspected cocaine.

The man arrived on a flight from New Providence.

He was taken into custody and is expected to be formal-

ly charged before Magistrate's Court later this week.

Police in New Providence also have three men in custody after recovering illegal firearms.

According to reports, shortly after 1:00pm, yesterday, Southeastern Division Officers conducted operation "Red Strike" in the Southern part of New Providence.

Officers conducted a search of a home on Pine Crest

Drive, Pinewood Gardens and recovered a Smith and Wesson 9mm pistol and 9 rounds of ammunition.

Two men and a woman who were found in the home, were taken into custody and are expected to be formally

charged before Magistrate's Court later this week.

The purpose of the operation was to target prolific offenders and search for wanted suspects.

COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER MINNIS BY THE HON. MARCO RUBIO, SENATOR OF FLORIDA



▶ U. S. Senator, The Hon. Marco Rubio representing Florida paid a Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Hon.
 Dr. Hubert A. Minnis today at Cabinet Office, Churchill Building. Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis & U. S. Senator The Hon. Marco Rubio exchange of gifts. (Photo: Yontalay Bowe - BIS/ OPM)

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

"CARNIVAL CAUSES MORAL DAMAGE"

SANDS:

"Nurses Under Appreciated"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Dr. Sands was responding to questions of whether the group put together to address nurses leaving had come up with a solution.

"As you would have known, I have tried to suggest to the Bahamian public that as a group, nurses play a very important role in the delivery of health care.

"And as such, I agree that they have been under appreciated and that we need to show them as a country that their service is valued.

"I think that we need to look for the medium and long term and that we put this aside and try to make this country an even better place. And to make our health care system even better," Dr. Sands said.

More importantly however, Dr. Sands said that in order to achieve a better health care system, Bahamians must become more confident that they are independent, or the country will continue to walk the same road.

"We ought to be saying to our young people, men and women, that there are wonderful careers in health care, in nursing in occupational therapy, in physical therapy, in radiography.

"To achieve self-sufficiency, ought to be the goal of a nation which is almost 50 years old.

"At what point are we going to become self-suffi-

"So, while I appreciate the people from the Philippines, Jamaica and Barbados and Africa and India, we need Bahamians, Bahamian young people to be doctors and nurses and health care professionals across our entire system; that means we have finally matured as a country," Dr, Sands said.

Dr Sands in February told reporters that a high-level panel had been convened to look into the root causes of exactly why Bahamian nurses are leaving the country in the hundreds. Continued from / PAGE 1...

"No doubt, in a few days Minister Michael Pintard will be gloating over the fact that the FNM has been far more fiscally prudent than the PLP in minimizing the financial cost of carnival to the nation. But what about the moral cost to the nation?

"I guarantee he will be silent on that. Yet, the moral cost far outweighs the fiscal cost, because while we can recover from the fiscal damage of carnival, recovering from the moral damage of carnival is not so easy," Pastor Moss said.

The pastor in a Letter to the Editor of this Journal, said that "the FNM government is still in fact funding carnival with thousands of dollars in kind through free advice to the so-called private owners of carnival, free police security, and free clean up of the mounds of garbage that will be left on our streets and on Clifford Park and Arawak Caygarbage that should be cleaned up by the so-called private owners of carnival".

Pastor Moss' letter indicated that the Free National Movement is no better than the Progressive Liberal Party.

"While the Minnis-led FNM government can rightly say that it has separated itself from the Christie-led PLP government and its fiscal irresponsibility regarding carnival, the same claim cannot be made about the moral irresponsibility of carnival.

"Regarding the moral irre-

sponsibility of carnival, Peter (the Minnis-led

FNM government) is no better than Paul (the Christie-led PLP government). Both of them see nothing wrong with groups of men and women frolicking in our streets and public spaces and engaging in sexually degrading and lewd conduct.

"Both of them see nothing wrong with the government promoting and facilitating an environment of excessive alcohol consumption and disregard for public decency laws, where virtually naked women erotically wine, gyrate, and have virtual sex in public with characterless men inflamed with lustful passions.

"Yes, regarding the moral irresponsibility of carnival, Peter is no better than Paul," Pastor Moss said.

Several listeners who called into the Love 97 Issues of the Day show, agreed with the pastor.

"It is facilitating that indeed, I want to applaud Mr. Moss for taking a stand; I wish he had a bigger mic. It is so preposterous and hypocritical of us as Bahamians to condone this kind of thing and I applaud the government for not funding it as well.

"When you look at the level of rape and all these other social ills that come about as a result of things like this and it goes further to the television what the children are seeing, so I want to applaud him.

"I am surprised that the Christian Council is not being vocal as they should be in issues such as this," the caller said.

One caller said that he considered Carnival "pure evil"

"Jesus told us to beware of covetousness, because a man's life, and that goes for country, consists not in abundance of the things which we possess. We grow up in a country where you couldn't even see a woman's leg and even in your house you couldn't look on your parent's nakedness or even your sister.

"So, for children to be viewing those types of things, in our country and parading on the road like that, that is outrageous," the caller said.

Yet another caller added that most Bahamians do not support Carnival.

"When it first came out, I remember they were trying to have this conservative type of uniform where you were well covered, but I knew that in a matter of time it was going to change, to that of Trinidad or Brazil.

"See because the nature of the beast, it could not be tamed. The word Carnival comes from the word carnal, which means fleshly, and the nature of the beast cannot be made moral," the caller said.

However, not all callers to the show agreed with Pastor Moss' contention that Carnival will bring a moral decline.

"I am just appalled at are

hypocrisy in this matter and many other matters. I think it is becoming cultural, that we seek to choose the things that we want to and the things that we don't want to which may be equally as bad or even worse. We put under a bushel.

"We have ministers speak against the Carnival, yet in this same beautiful country, where it is better in The Bahamas, we have so many things that are going on that are biblically immoral and it states in plain in big bold letters in the Bible that we shouldn't do, yet they either harness it, host it or don't speak out about it," the caller said.

In closing to the letter, Pastor Moss urged that, "Those of us who belong to Jesus Christ need to pray that God will give us and our leaders a true sense of national, godly shame that we should have about carnival and other evidences of moral decay in our nation".

Bahamas Carnival is scheduled for this weekend, May 4-6.



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 An Associate's Degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above , and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above or
- A High School Diploma with a GPA of 2.8 or above , and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above and five (5) years working experience in any capacity

Participants will be assessed on a quarterly basis and must meet all the requirements of the program to be retained in the Apprenticeship Program. Come Grow With Us! Because at Fidelity "We're Good For You!"

PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT BEFORE: April 20th, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Apprentice Program
51 Frederick Street | P.O. Box N-4853 | Nassau | F: 328.1108
careers@fidelitybahamas.com



MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER

BY LEAH COOPER Journal Staff Writer

Fifty-seven year old Wilfred Armbrister was arraigned in the Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with a stabbing on Marshall Road last Friday.

Armbrister of Marshall Road was formally charged with attempted murder in connection to the incident.

Police responded to a domestic complaint around 11am on April 27th and discovered a woman suffering from injuries.

National NEWS

The woman was taken to hospital and was reported to be in serious condition.

Armbrister was remanded to Bahamas Department of Corrections until 20th June, 2018.



▶ The Ministry of Health on Monday hosted a Welcome Reception for visiting Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Delegates attending a Regional Sub-Committee Meeting in The Bahamas. The group held opening day sessions at Atlantis, just prior, addressed by Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands. The Minister is pictured welcoming the delegates and local health officials to the Reception held at the Ministry. Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis, former Chief Medical Officer of The Bahamas's Ministry of Health, will receive the prestigious PAHO 'Public Health Hero' Award this evening at Government House, addressed by Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis. PAHO will also have a breakfast meeting with Parliamentarians on Thursday at Atlantis. (BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)









GOT NEWS? Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!







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▶ Able Seaman Dasmend Bowe and Marine Seaman Philip Hanna, and 3 concerned citizens onboard the abandoned vessel which ran aground. (RBDF Photos by Marine Seaman Michael Turner)

DRIFTING FREIGHTER CAUSES DAMAGE

Journal Staff Writer

The Royal Bahamas Defense Force Managed to prevent a great amount of damage last Tuesday due to a few quick thinking marines.

Godet and Marine Seaman Dion Dames assisted with securing one of three Haitian breakaway freighters near Potter's Cay Dock.

After receiving information around 1pm, Patrol Craft P-115 discovered a 68ft Sidney Poitier Bridge.

Attempts were made to anchor the vessel into shallow waters west of the Bay Street Marina.

No one was onboard the freighter, but it reportedly caused some degree of damage to two boats in its path.



Able Seaman Warren Godet and Marine Seaman Dion Dames working hard to secure the freighter before any further damage is caused.



▶ After climbing onboard the abandoned vessel which was adrift, Able Seaman Dasmend Bowe, Chief Petty Officer Pedro Rolle and Marine Seaman Dion Dames (listed as pictured) from the Defence Force Harbour Patrol Unit attempt to secure a rope to tow it away from other vessels in the Nassau Harbour to safety.



milobutler

BUSINESS OWNERS EXPRESS CONCERNS ON GOV'T INITIATIVE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Douglas Bain, Owner of Cravings Bakery says, "You can always amend, but you have to start at some point. You have to start somewhere, and the starting point right now is to allow people who have some type of profession to open a business in the Over the Hill area, and allow them to bring whatever they need to bring in duty free."

Further, the local entrepreneur said that while the economic empowerment initiative is a good one, there must be room for the initiative to

successfully take place. "In order to run a successful or to operate a business in this area, it has to be someone who is closing down, going out of business and someone comes along and use that same building to do their business. But as far as extra properties, there is none," said Donald Dorsett, Owner of Dorsett's Food Centre.

Kiffer Morris, Owner of

Englerston Pool Room said, "we can't continue trying to reinvent the wheel with the same established type of businesses we have in each community, meaning that if we say the business initiative is one that would be a new type of business coming into the area; that could probably help and enhance the area also."

"We have to think outside the box when we talk about the initiative that we're talking about, because if you saturate the market then what happens?

"Too much of anything is not good; too little of anything is also not good. So we have to figure out a balance when it comes to what kind of businesses they're really looking forward to coming into our community," Morris said.

The businessmen also expressed their opinions about foreign business owners in the community.

"We find that most of the

businesses around here, the

smaller businesses are owned by the expatriates of this community. They seem to have made inroads in our area. But all the same, persons like myself who operate a business and who have been in business for quite some time, we're holding our own," said

Dorsett. "Notice all the Chinese are moving Over the Hill. There's a reason why they're moving Over the Hill. There's plenty money to be made, but it should be made by people who live a strive in these communities," Bain

added. The objectives of the Over the Hill Initiative are to ensure a safer and cleaner community and to encourage the inclusive economic and social empowerment of residents through community development.

A town hall meeting for The Over the Hill Initiative was held last evening at Bethel Baptist Church, on Meeting Street.



The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

That the time is near when, I am being obliged to face facts as they are and to know that, man born of woman is but of a few years; this I feel in my now tired bones; in my legs; in my knees and for sure, by way of eyes that no longer see as they once did; and for also, in loins which can barely quiver---and clearly, too, I know that there are people around me- some of them dear to me-and clearly, too there are some who are most cherished by me - and yet, I know that there are people about me who could care less whether I live or die---and yet, the thought comforts me that Life itself is Exit-- which is to say that, it all ends with a FULL STOP!

And yet, Life goes onand Death - as I am poet -promised-shall have no dominion!

And so today, I do declare that:-- Unlike Dr. Minnis, I did not grow up in any area Over-The-Hill. I grew up Out-East in Freetown; and as I did so, I was young, green and at the same town quite aware of what it also meant to be black, male and bastard, all rolled up in a tight enough little knot; and too, in time, I also learned that I could one day do well for myself if only I learned that hard work never killed anybody—and thus, as I grew in both wisdom and stature, I was able to learn that adults could hurt children and even then, I was able to tune into wisdom-talk that counselled as follows- Even though God 'make -OGLY---He still did not like it---and thus, I learned how to deal with hurt, spite and pain.

These thoughts and memories now bubble to the surface as I listen in on some of the grand plans Dr. Minnis and his new crew now have for the so-called 'revitalization' of communities Over-The-Hill.

And as my mind turned in this direction, I was minded to note that, much of today's deeply challenged Nigger-Yard Bahamas is now neckdeep in squalor; thus the mess in the Five-Pound-Lot area; the mess in Englerston; the mess Over-The-Hill and all that other mess now engulfing the vast majority of those sordidly squalid places where this land's

hordes of Black men, women and children now live, suffer and die!

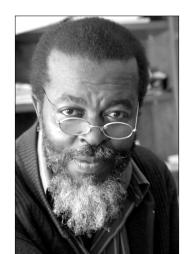
And thus, today's lament emanating - as it were from the bowels of yesterday's Nassau-Gone-Funky Bahamas

Truly, then:-- These memories and ruminations on things as they are also come mixed in with a plethora of sorrows as I wonder to myself how it could arise today that in areas heavily populated by some of our 'newest' Bahamians - especially those very many industrious so-called Haitian Bahamians who now live all over the hill; in Freetown; in Congo Town; in Sandilands Village; in Adelaide; in Englerston and for that matter who also live in Pigeon Pea and in the Mud and who also live on Russel Island; throughout Exuma and with that, who also live wherever there is an honest penny to be made or had.

And thus today, I wonder why Dr. Minnis and his crew are not promising the rest of the people in today's people's time era the same kind of sweet-perky stuff they now promise to the supposedly 'poor' people living Over-The-Hill!

But yet, Minnis crows:--"...Tonight I only give you the cake! Tomorrow I give you the icing. Be assured the icing is better than the cake. We want you to have a better start so the higher you start it's easier for you to now be a part of these businesses that do not exist now. It's all for preparing you for tomorrow. We don't want you to have only remedial jobs." Dr. Hubert A. Minnis.

If dirt-poor Felix Bethel was to take Dr. Minnis at his word I know that this good brother would now be about the business of waiting and wanting to see and hear when he and his ilk would learn how and when the Minnis regime would get down to the really-reallyserious business of eliminating the use of outside toilets and thence to their promise of offering tax concessions



EditorialNEWS

forts to fools; and since, I do verily believe in Dr. Minnis and his sweetest of promises, I am today quite afraid that – in my case – it might well be that:-- There is no fool like an old fool!

And now, I know that I am old!

And then, there was something to the effect that:---Dr. Minnis was on the road to getting back to his roots --- and thus and therewith to promises and plans aimed at making certain Over-The-Hill constituencies free Wifi areas; to create a food market for native products in the area; to construct a multi-purpose community centre that offers care for children, the elderly and opportunities for counselling to people of all ages, to create an auto-mechanic cluster that eliminates roadside mechanics in residential areas and to build a sports complex with volleyball, tennis, basketball courts and a swimming pool, among other things – and with this as Martin Carter would advise]:-- I tell you and I tell no secret ----now is the long past time for worship; long past time for kneeling with clasped hands at altars of poverty---How are the mighty slain? By this hammer of my hand! By this anger in my life! By this new science of men alive everywhere in this province! Thus – are the mighty slain!

Yeah---Gadjammmmit; like Martin Carter, I swear to you that:---I come from the nigger yard of yesterday; leaping from the oppressors' hate---from the long days of cruelty and the long nights of pain down to the wide streets



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Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones

NO STUMBLING

First this new information:-- The Government last week tabled the Multinational Entities Financial Reporting Bill in the House of Assembly, which is legislation designed to meet the requirements of the OECD's latest anti-tax avoidance drive, the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative.

Evidently, this legislative initiative has come about precisely because the Bahamas wishes to remain cognizant of and responsive to demands made upon it by not only the European Union, but also by Treaty demands emanating from the United **Nations**

And thus it surely follows that any and all who would chat about what and how The Bahamas should proceed should be bold enough and wise enough to share with the public what is to be known about how power is wielded in today's anarchic inter-national system of nations.

We are quite certain that Attorney is fully in tune with the laws and the facts which now permeate this world-embracing system.

And thus notwithstanding his real knowledge of how these things work, news now arises where:--Alfred Sears QC, warned that the Bahamas was making the mistake of viewing the EU and OECD initiatives as "isolated problems" that only impacted the financial services industry, rather than the "bigger picture" of national sovereignty and the imposition of rules that this nation had no say in crafting.

In this regard, it is noteworthy to note and remark concerning this learned brother's query as to whether - as he framed the issue at hand - The Bahamas has a "medium and long-term game

And then, there is that rather bold suggestion nd apparent conclusion to the effect that:---The numerous Bills designed to address EU/OECD concerns threatened to force radical change on this nation's economy without the consequences being properly thought through.

This is but assertion dressed up in brand new clothes; and thus, we cannot and shall not accept his conclusion - as he demands:-- The Government must do a better job of defending the

This kind of presumption-assumption based reasoning is nought but second-guessing gone to bed; and thus, we dismiss advice to the effect that:-- "...We ought first of all to really raise the question of a multilateral body, of which the

Bahamas is not a member, on a threat of sanctions and punitive action demanding a radical transformation of our country and the implementation of reporting requirements..."

Who - we beg to know and be informed:--Who is this 'WE' who ought to do anything!

Evidently, therefore, power is [as it always shall be] a key arbiter of effective decision-making amongst nation-states.

In this regard, then, we are today quite certain that the current administration -as it was represented recently in Brussels- was made aware of how the power equation works in the real world.

In that real world, things are [as we are being reliably advised] precisely what they are:-- And clearly, then, Facts are quite stubborn things!

Indeed, then:-- We take it as fact that not only is Attorney Alfred M. Sears absolutely correct when he sagely advises any and all who would know that:-- "You don't stumble into a new tax regime under the threat of sanction!"

Presumably, this assertion/good advice is being directed at how the current administration is dealing with that blacklisting matter now being addressed and therefore dealt with [somehow or the other] by the Government.

In this regard, then, note well that:-- The Bahamas has been "blacklisted" by the European Union - despite a last ditch effort this week by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Financial Services to ward off the move.

We know also that:-- "The Bahamas was today included on the European Union listing of noncooperative iurisdictions for tax purposes at its meeting of European Council of Finance Ministers without discussion.

In truth, then:-- We are today quite satisfied that, the Europeans are doing what all nationstates do in that anarchic space known as INTER-NATIONAL relations; and clearly, what each nation-state does what it can; what it believes it should do against a backdrop where -in the ultimate analysis-power prevails.

Sears is quite aware of this and even more that derives from these facts of life as they pertain to the weak in the world of the strong!





US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Pays Courtesy Call at OPM, Grand Bahama

FREEPORT, Grand **Bahama** – Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the Prime Minister, Senator the Hon. J. Kwasi Thompson welcomed Stephanie Bowers, US Embassy Charge d'Affaires, on her first official visit to Grand Bahama, April 27,

Minister Thompson said the United States is an important partner with The Bahamas, and he was pleased to welcome her to Grand Bahama.

Senator Thompson presented Ms. Bowers with a gift basket and explained its

significance. He said the products were all made in The Bahamas by Bahamians -- produced by participants of the Youth Apiary Programme, which has educated and trained 30 young people in the honey making business, and assisted them in forming companies.

"They are now in the beginning process of selling their products. This is a basket they produced with candles, soaps, honey.... We are very proud of them and we just wanted to present to you something that was made in The Bahamas, by Bahamians."

Ms. Bowers noted while this was her first trip to Grand Bahama, she hoped to be able to meet the young business people. She added that she was honoured to be in Grand Bahama and having recently arrived in The Bahamas, looks forward to continuing the strong partnership between The Bahamas and the United States of America: "I think the United States and The Bahamas have mutually aligned goals, and we look forward to strengthening our partnership and moving forward together," she said.



▶ A GIFT FOR YOU - During her first visit to Grand Bahama, US Embassy Charge d' Affaires, Stephanie Bowers paid a courtesy call on Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the Prime Minister, Senator the Hon. J. Kwasi Thompson on Friday. Minister Thompson presented Ms. Bowers with a gift basket of Bahamian products made by Youth Apiary Programme participants. The basket contained candles, soap and honey. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that the Town Planning Committee is considering a preliminary application (PSA/55/2018) on behalf of Hucknall Limited and Argon Limited to permit multifamily residential land use on Lots 6,7,8,9 and 10A in Love Estates.

The subject lots are situated on the northern side of West Bay Street and immediately east of Garden of Eden.

The file for the proposed change of land use is available for viewing in the Department of Physical Planning at the Aventura Plaza, John F. Kennedy Drive. Interested persons and organisations are invited to provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

Submissions should be made via P.O. Box N-1611, Nassau, The Bahamas, or fax (242)328-3206. Further inquiries should be made to the Acting Director via Tel. (242)322-7550/2 or (242)328-3202 or CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

> Signed Charles B. Zonicle Acting Director of Physical Planning

