



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OMAR C. FRITH APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Kingston, Jamaica: The Social Development Commission (SDC) is proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Omar C. Frith as its new Executive Director (ED), effective January 28, 2025.

Emerging from a competitive field of candidates, Mr. Frith succeeds Dr. Dwayne Vernon, whose contract came to an end on January 27, after serving the SDC for over two decades, including thirteen years at the helm of the organization.

Mr. Frith, a seasoned leader with more than 20 years of experience in social and community development, strategic management, and leadership, is poised to guide the SDC into an exciting new chapter of growth and transformation.

“I am profoundly honoured to embrace this responsibility and lead the charge in transforming lives and strengthening communities across Jamaica,” said Mr. Frith. “Building on the remarkable legacy of the Social Development Commission, we are not just continuing the journey, we are igniting a revolution of empowerment and meaningful change. Together with a dedicated team, we are determined to unite the public and private sectors, forge bold partnerships, and drive sustainable economic growth that uplifts every Jamaican. The SDC is ready, and the time is now join us in shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for all!”

Mr. Frith has built an impressive career spanning government and non-governmental organizations, consistently championing community empowerment and innovation. As the SDC’s Deputy Executive Director for eight years, he spearheaded Strategic Planning and Communications. Prior to this, he served as General Manager of the Stella Maris Foundation, where he led transformative community development projects.

A highly respected public servant, Mr. Frith has an extensive background in corporate governance and government operations. His contributions include roles as a Board Commissioner at the Early Childhood Commission, a Board Director at eLearning Jamaica, and his current positions as Chairman of the CHASE Fund and Board Director of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), where he serves on the Finance, Projects, and Corporate Governance Committees.

Mr. Frith’s academic achievements include a Master’s degree in Management, certifications in Project Management from the University of New Orleans and the Project Management Global Institute, and specialized training in the Management of Local Development from the International

Training Centre of the ILO in Italy. His leadership and contributions to community development have earned him numerous accolades, including an honorary doctorate in Social & Human Development.

As a Justice of the Peace, mediator, and communications expert, Mr. Frith is widely recognized for fostering collaboration and trust among diverse stakeholders. In his new role, he is committed to advancing the SDC's mission of driving social transformation through community engagement, sustainable development, and strategic partnerships.

In extending congratulations, SDC Board Chairman, Mr. Hidran McKulsky said, "The Board and staff of the SDC warmly welcome Mr. Frith and extend our gratitude to outgoing ED Dr. Vernon for his invaluable service. We are confident that given Mr. Frith's exceptional leadership skills, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to excellence; as well as his expertise and passion, he will drive the SDC to even greater heights and deliver on its mandate of empowering communities across Jamaica."

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