



House of Assembly

The Parliamentary Joint Select Committee

Inquiring Into The Events of the December 2nd 2016 Incident At The House of Assembly

Introduction

On 1 December 2017 the House of Assembly approved a Motion to investigate the events leading to the events of 2 December, 2016. The Speaker of the House of Assembly thereafter appointed a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee to investigate the matter.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference require the Committee Parliamentary Joint Select Committee to look into the events of 2 December, 2016 generally, including the decision-making and any directives of the Executive and then Speaker of the House of Assembly given to the Bermuda Police Service that led up to and precipitated the events on that day. These events include the deployment of Police in riot gear and the use by some Police of incapacitant pepper spray on the crowd of citizens assembled in protest.

Authority

The Parliamentary Joint Select Committee was established by Resolution of the House of Assembly at its Session on 1 December 2017, under provisions of the Parliament Act 1957 (The Act) and Standing Orders of the House of Assembly (SO 38 I-3).

Pursuant to Part IV of the Parliament Act 1957, the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee was appointed to:

- (1) inquire into the events as aforesaid as thoroughly as may be ;
- (2) bring closure to these events by making all necessary findings, recommendations and, where required, to recommend any proper sanctions; and
- (3) submit its report to the House of Assembly within three to six months.

In relation to every issue relevant to these events, the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee shall-

- (1) identify the key or relevant decision-makers of the precipitating actions which led to the main events under inquiry;
- (2) send for all persons, papers and records that are relevant to the Committee's mandate to thoroughly inquire into the events;
- (3) examine all persons who are or were accountable for decisions, deployments, and acts or omissions on 2 December, 2016 whether as Premier, Ministers, Public Officers, Civil Servants or Constitutional Office Holders.

The Parliamentary Joint Select Committee Members

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee is Mr. H. K. E. (Kim) Swan JP M.P.

The other members of the Committee are:

- Senator the Hon. Joan Dillas-Wright JP, President of the Senate;
- Mr. Neville Tyrrell JP, M.P.
- The Hon. Michael Scott JP, M.P.
- Mrs. Tinee Furbert JP, M.P.
- Mr. Ben Smith JP, M.P.; and
- Senator Andrew Simons JP

Commitment

Each member of this Parliamentary Joint Select Committee will carry out all facets of its operation, including but not limited to, research, investigations and deliberations, with fairness, transparency and sensitivity.

Invitation

Anyone who:

- wishes to provide a statement (written, audio or video) of their experiences relating to 2 December, 2016; and/or
 - holds or knows of documents and/or records of any nature (e.g. video or audio recordings) which he or she thinks may assist the Committee in its work,
- is requested to supply the relevant information to the Committee in order to assist it in its investigation.

The submission must include the name, address and contact information, including the email address if available, of the sender and should be addressed to The Clerk - Parliamentary Joint Select Committee - December 2. Submissions can be delivered by any of the following methods:

By mail to:

The House of Assembly
21 Parliament Street
Hamilton HM12

By hand to:

Office of the Legislature
Ground Floor, the Swan Building
26 Victoria Street, Hamilton HM 11

By email to:

adyertucker@gov.bm

All submissions should be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 7 February 2018.

PLEASE NOTE: The Committee reserves the right to require that persons making submissions may be called upon to provide additional information.