

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMISSION SECRETARIAT**

The Local Government Services Commission was established by the Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Act 2016. This Act replaces the Municipal Service Commission Act 1956, and the Parish Councils (Unified Services) Act 1956, both Acts have been repealed and is replaced by the new Act of 2016. The Commission has the responsibility for Human Resource functions similar to those in the Central Government, and is required to make recommendations to the twelve (12) Local Authorities, the Portmore Municipal Council and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC), in respect of staff in the Local Authorities.

Prior to 1956, each Parish Council functioned as a separate entity in relation to employment of staff. It should be highlighted that with the introduction of Law 35 of 1956, a fundamental change took place in the functions of the Parish Councils, in that, while they continued to be the employing bodies, they were no longer empowered to determine any issue in relation to a unified service officer without the Commission's recommendation in the matter.

The Governor-General shall by instrument in writing appoint one (1) of the members of the Commission to be:-

- (a) the Chairman of the Commission, not being a person employed in a public office as defined by the Constitution of Jamaica or holding any office.

The Commission shall consist of not less than seven (7) nor more than nine (9) members appointed by the Governor-General by instrument in writing, so however, that subject to the provisions of this section:-

(a) two members shall be appointed upon nomination by the Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ), incorporated under the Association of Local Government Employees (Incorporation and Vesting) Act, 2004;

(b) two members shall be appointed upon nomination as follows:-

i. one member shall be nominated by the Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers (JALGO), or such other association representing unified service officers as may be prescribed; and

ii. one member shall be nominated by the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU), or such other association representing trade unions as may be prescribed; and

(c) the other members shall be appointed from among persons nominated by the Minister, including:-

i. two members from among persons with recognized expertise in human resource management; and

ii. one member who shall be a practising Attorney-at-Law.

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The present members of the Local Government Services Commission with effect from April 17, 2016:

- ❖ Mrs. Fay Hutchinson - Chairman
- ❖ Mrs. Joyce Young
- ❖ Mr. Lincoln Evans
- ❖ Mr. Roy Lafayette
- ❖ Mrs. Rose Bennett- Cooper
- ❖ Mr. Elvis Lennon
- ❖ Mr. Owen Saunderson (ALGAJ)
- ❖ Mrs. Elaine Walker (JALGO) (Appointed- June 6, 2016)
- ❖ Mr. Rudolph Thomas (JCTU)