

**ROBIN YEARWOOD JR**  
**WILLIKIES VILLAGE**  
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25<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Mr. Fitzgerald Lewis  
Chairman  
St. Phillips North Constituency Branch  
Willikies Village  
Antigua

And by: Email

Dear Chairman Lewis,

I am writing to formally register my interest to be the next constituent representative for St Phillip's North.

**My profile**

Within the constituency of St. Phillips North, I am known as the *likkle red bwoy for Robin, the bwoy for Pussy Salad or little Robin*. Whilst some may say this is a positive, I also appreciate that on the alternative this can be a hindrance as some may write me off before I show my intent to build on the development of the St. Phillips North Constituency. However, those that know me know that I have always been my own person and I do what I feel is right without fear or favour.

Although born in the United Kingdom (UK), I have always viewed myself as an Antiguan and proud product of Willikies village. I spent my childhood growing up in Willikies where I would often go around with the other boys from the village running donkey, going fishing, cutting coconut trees, picking goat food, playing football and going into everybody's house that I could smell food from. The older generation would openly embrace me, sit me down and talk to me and educate me about how things were for them growing up in within the Constituency.

I had attended St Nicolas Primary School before I left to go to the UK where I continued my education and completed my GCSE's and A Levels. However, even though I left, I would always come back home at every opportunity as the saying goes "*You can take the boy out the village, however you cannot take the village out of the boy*". Thereafter, I completed a BA in Legal Studies and Political Science, before obtaining my qualifying LL.B law degree, then successfully completed my Master of Law (LL.M) in international Law. I was then at a crossroads in deciding what to pursue next, and after some guidance from legal scholars, Judges and legal advocates I decided to qualify as an attorney so as to acquire a broader base of experience by working for clients from all walks of life.

As a result, I was successfully admitted onto the of Roll of Solicitors affording me the opportunity to interact with people of all races, backgrounds and political influences. This decision has allowed me to represent a vast number of clients within a variety of legal problems including but not limited to general Civil, Criminal, Family, Commercial and Human Rights issues throughout courts in the UK.

The experience that I have gained from representing clients on a variety of different legal issues has taught me to be compassionate, empathetic and understanding. I summarise this by saying that I have learnt how to look into the deeds of men and women with an analytical eye whilst maintaining a problem-solving mind.

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Added to the above, as everybody knows I come from a politically motivated family, from which I have learnt valuable lessons in Antiguan politics and the art of compromise.

**My intention**

My intention is to seamlessly serve the people of St. Phillips North to champion their cause and to ensure that their voices are heard nationally and internationally. I say this with my mission statement in mind. For the people of St. Phillips North, it is my intention to:

- Provide the constituency of St. Phillips North with the energy, dedication, vision and dynamic thinking which my age and experience as a young attorney has to offer.
- Bring together, the wisdom of older constituents and the views of the future thinking younger generations so as to create a new approach that is in-line with the constituency ethos of social cohesion.
- I also aim to be part of a cohesive and vibrant constituency team comprising of young and old members from all villages within the constituency that creates opportunities for all within to listen, understand and build on the progress that has been made by the current representative and community activists who all strive for a better St. Phillip's North.
- Be part of constituency team that tackles poverty and unemployment so as to increase the standard of living amongst citizens. To champion the cause for farmers and other aspiring entrepreneurs to put a marker down within their respective areas of expertise not only complementing the cultural aspects that St. Phillips North has been known for, but also embracing new technology and creating opportunities for corporations to not only consider but choose the constituency of St. Phillips North to be where they decide to operate business from increasing employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities for all.

As an aspiring representative for the constituency of St. Phillips North one must be honest with the constituents as they all deserve this respect whether good or bad. This will ensure that the strong foundations laid by the current representative, Sir Robin Yearwood, for a better constituency are built upon and all past hard work does not go in vain. However, it is common knowledge that the party did not fair as well, or should I say gloriously in the last general elections as we were only able to hold on to the reigns of power by a shoestring majority. I hope that these words do not cause offence as it is true and seems to spell doom for the future.

I was in Antigua for the last election and actively involved in campaigning with the constituency so I managed to observe and listen to some of the constituents to take on board their opinion on what they felt worked well during the campaign and the areas in which they felt could be improved upon.

Growing up in a political family has perked my interest in watching the political climate of Antigua and Barbuda. The contributions of the current representative, Sir Robin Yearwood would never be matched in our lifetime. We all in the constituency continue to look up to his leadership and experience, he has afforded opportunities for his constituents to break barriers and achieve the unachievable through his dedication, strength and courage. I aim to build upon this and encourage our younger generations that, irrespective of whatever difficult challenges they may face they too can succeed and climb the ladders to shape our consistency for the benefit of others.

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The constituency deserves an individual that can not only represent them in the Halls of Parliament, but also internationally whereby they have a seat at the table with other international bodies inviting further foreign direct investment benefitting the development of St Phillips North.

I believe that St. Phillips North constituency comprising of Willikies, Glanvilles, Seatons and Newfield should be one of the leading constituencies in Antigua and Barbuda where it is vibrant and exciting and one that other constituencies would look to for ideas and to incorporate the same for their own benefit. I also believe that rather than constituents having to travel out of St. Phillips North to earn a good living, to progress themselves and to benefit their family needs, that St. Phillips North should be able to offer these opportunities and that it be a place that constituents can realise their dreams and aspirations.

Whilst there has been the development of hotels which has generated economic activity and employment opportunities, I believe that we must build upon the work of Sir Robin Yearwood so that the constituency of St. Phillips North does not wholly depend on the tourism brand to generate economic development and jobs.

### **My ability to bring about progress**

Whilst the above is but a handful of observations that I have skimmed over, I believe that with every problem comes a solution. I also believe that due to my personality I have the ability to find a way forward when others think that none exist.

As an example of my ability and achievement, shortly after the 2018 elections there was a fire within the constituency and the fire department were called to the scene. As I was present, I noticed that they were not properly equipped and in desperate need of new vehicles and other firefighting equipment. Recognising this difficulty which had affected the constituency, I sought the assistance of the leading manufacturer of fire vehicles in the UK to provide two refurbished fire engines to the Antigua & Barbuda fire department at a vastly reduced price which included shipping and equipment. Following this, I also arranged for an engineer to travel to Antigua and Barbuda to give training to the fire department free of charge and to demonstrate how to effectively use the two fire engines. I believe that St. Phillips North would immensely benefit from their own Fire Station where it would instil confidence and pride within the constituency.

This then opened my eyes to other opportunities where I felt I could make the right connections to further improve the self-sustainability of Antigua and Barbuda. In 2020, I observed that the abattoir and poultry unit in Antigua and Barbuda was in a deplorable state. I am in discussions with another leading manufacturer and supplier in the meat production and processing industry, where I am putting together a package which includes the supply and construction of a brand new abattoir and poultry unit which would not only provide a safe and reliable environment for the workers but it would also provide a more hygienic environment where stakeholders can be confident that they would be given the best meats for human consumption. I believe that with lands available in Willikies, the opportunity for the government to agree on the construction of an abattoir and poultry unit within the constituency would also complement our strong agricultural experience.

In line with the vision of the Honourable Leader and esteemed Prime Minister who has always advocated that Antigua and Barbuda should be the economic powerhouse in the western hemisphere, I share this vision and idea for the constituency of St Phillips North.

### **My plans**

Currently I am winding down my professional and practising commitments in the UK so as to move back to Antigua and Barbuda imminently. Upon my return I intend on doing the 6 months conversion course to enable me to be called to the Bar in Antigua and Barbuda.

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This will give me the needed presence in the constituency and the opportunity to strengthen my relationship and commitment towards the people of St. Phillips North with whom I already have ties.

I aim to work relentlessly to ensure that victory at the next general election is not the subject of any doubt, and that the constituency of St Phillips North will remain a strong hold for the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party being the first seat on election night to be retained by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party just as it was on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

I am under no illusions with regard to the tasks and work ahead as I believe that the constituents would expect progress within a short time scale and perfection over a longer.

This does not daunt me as I am eager to serve my constituency, my party and my country over and beyond the call of duty.

Respectfully, I put myself forward to be considered as the next candidate for the St Phillips North Constituency.

Yours sincerely,



Robin Yearwood Jr

Cc – Sir Robin Yearwood