



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

### PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: [jackie.primeau@ct.gov](mailto:jackie.primeau@ct.gov) | d-(860) 702-3245 | c-(860) 874-9947

## TREASURER WOODEN MEETS WITH JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER, DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP & OPPORTUNITIES

*Wooden Reaffirms Connecticut's Strong Relationship—Past, Present, & Future—with Jamaica during NYC Meeting with Prime Minister Andrew Holness & Investors*

**NEW YORK, NY** — Today, Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden met with Jamaica's head of government, The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica. The meeting was hosted by American Friends of Jamaica, Inc., a nonprofit organization, in New York City. In addition to discussing the Caribbean island's economic growth and turnaround, the first meeting of Prime Minister Holness and Connecticut State Treasurer Wooden provided an opportunity to exchange ideas on strengthening economic opportunities between Jamaica and Connecticut.

“In Connecticut, we have deeply-rooted cultural and economic ties to Jamaica, not just in our West Indian communities but throughout our state,” said **State Treasurer Shawn Wooden**. “As Jamaica's economy continues to show promising signs of progress to investors, it makes sense to advance long-discussed opportunities for trade expansion and direct air service between the island and Connecticut.”



Wooden serves as a Board Member of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA), which oversees Bradley International Airport—Connecticut's only international airport—in addition to the state's five general aviation airports. CAA works to attract new routes, commerce and companies to

Connecticut and has been courting major airlines to expand direct service between Connecticut and Jamaica for the last several years.

As economic prospects continue to expand in Jamaica, Wooden wants major airlines and import-export interests to take note of Connecticut's close ties to the country and the joint economic benefit of strengthening relationships.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness visit to the United States comes as [Jamaica prepares to successfully exit from the International Monetary Fund \(IMF\) program in November](#). Once known as one of the most indebted countries in the world, Jamaica and the IMF have an extensive history of loan agreements, of which, the most recent was put into place in 2016. Jamaica's successful completion of financial arrangements with the IMF this year is considered to be a major milestone in the country's economic history.

In August, during the celebration of Jamaica's 57<sup>th</sup> year of independence, [Prime Minister Holness noted changing economic conditions](#), including the lowest unemployment rate in the country's history, a low and stable inflation rate, credit ratings moving in a positive direction and record-breaking tourism for the last two years.

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