



October 7, 2020

Dear Commissioner Womack,

Thank you for speaking with me today regarding your idea of enhancing Silent Observer's current \$2,500 reward for homicides to \$10,000. Given the anxiety of our residents over the pandemic and the uptick in shootings and homicides, an increased reward amount may entice someone in the know to come forward and give their important information that could lead to a dangerous criminal being removed from our streets.

I am the Vice-Chair of Crime Stoppers USA and in that capacity, I work with other Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer Programs throughout the country. I do know that there have been other Crime Stoppers Programs that have increased their rewards to combat violence and have been very successful. One program offered \$10,000 for information solving homicides but put a time limit on it. They said the increased reward would only be available for 30 days. They had great success with that initiative.

A couple other Crime Stoppers programs have received donations from their business community to increase their rewards for homicides to \$25,000. They have had no problem raising that money and they have almost a 100% closure rate. Unfortunately, it has been extremely difficult for Silent Observer to raise the funds needed to just maintain our organization.

The violence our community is experiencing is frightening and devastating. Gun violence has sharply increased the last six months and our community members do not feel safe. Unfortunately, witnesses and others are hesitant to come forward because of fear of retaliation, fear of getting involved with the police, and the code the silence. Therefore, a trusted, functional, and efficient Silent Observer Program is more important than ever. *Can you imagine what would happen if Silent Observer did not exist? There are no other means for the community to provide tips anonymously...Silent Observer is our community's alternative to silence.*

We would be very willing to launch an enhanced reward program if the funding were available and we will do whatever it takes to garner a great result.

Thank you, Commissioner, for your work and for your passion for our community.

Sincerely,

Chris Cameron
Silent Observer