



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

GUN BOUNTY / MEDIATION UPDATE

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DEPUTY PREMIER & MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide for honourable members and the public an update on two initiatives launched in support of this Government's fight against guns, gangs, drugs and violence.

As I indicated previously in this Honourable House, the gang mediation programme fashioned on Boston's StreetSafe model has been revived and provided with an enhanced structure and resources. **Mr. Speaker,** the programme is up and running and informally, some of the critical groundwork is being laid to ensure that there

is an open line of communication to prevent minor matters from boiling over into serious crimes.

I can advise Honourable Members that the Boston team that trained Bermudians in StreetSafe techniques last year have returned to conduct further training and to assess our progress to date. **Mr. Speaker**, we are in good stead and the training has gone exceptionally well.

I am confident that this programme will go from strength to strength and will provide the much needed alternatives to the gang lifestyle and reclaim a generation of our Island's young people.

Separately, **Mr. Speaker**, I am also pleased to update honourable members and the public on the Gun Bounty initiative.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will recall last month's launch of the Gun Bounty initiative in

partnership with Crime Stoppers. Since that time, we have run a consistent media campaign emphasizing the importance of getting firearms off the streets.

The tag line has been **“If you know something, say something”**.

Mr. Speaker, whilst I am not at liberty to share details in this forum, I am pleased to confirm that already a firearm has been seized following such a tip to the Police. This is in addition to the firearm seized in Somerset on Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated when the Gun Bounty was launched, this is not the cure for the issues that confront us, but it is one of the tools available and we must do everything we can to get guns off the street. One firearm off the street is a measure of success which validates this Government's determination to engage the community at every level of this fight against guns, gangs, drugs and violence.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of individuals speaking up when they have information that can lead to successes like this. At every level we, as a community, must continue to do our part to reclaim the way of life we desire for Bermuda. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate the message of the campaign: **“If you know something, say something.”**

With the strong, targeted enforcement of the Bermuda Police Service, the growing impact of gang mediation and the development of opportunities for our young people, we are continuing to make inroads in the mission to make Bermuda safer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.