

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORGANISATIONS PARTNER TO OFFER \$100,000 REWARD

HAMILTON, BERMUDA – January 7th, 2009: For the last few months as a community we have been overwhelmed with gun violence and death. Rise Above Bermuda set out to mobilize a community of Bermudians who will rise to action. Tasks were given and groups were formed; Community Capacity Building, Youth Vision and Development, Gang Intervention, National Mentoring and Faith-Based Engagement. The actions should be direct, immediate, relevant, sustaining and impactful. We recognize that we also had to create an incentive for individuals to come forward to give information that might help stop the gun violence and it is to that end, Rise Above Bermuda formally partnered with Crime Stoppers Bermuda and the concerned business community to come up with a \$100,000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and convictions of those responsible for the deaths of Kumi Hartford, Gary Cann, Shane Minors, or Perry Puckerin or any subsequent individuals killed in gang violence. We believe that this is one of many tools we must use in the fight to gain back our communities. We believe that giving incentive to those who live in these neighborhoods also represents a ray of hope. It must be noted, this intendum is faith, hard work, and long-term strategies for at risk males in the area are just some of the ways we can make a difference. We must break the silence and the change begins with us.

ENDS

About Rise Above Bermuda

Rise Above, Bermuda! A grassroots action group, which seeks to mobilize citizens for leadership, mentorship, faith-engagement, community capacity building, and action to impact neighborhoods and communities in Bermuda. We will enlist every Bermudian in this effort. We will rise above, Bermuda.

On December 6th, we set out to mobilize a community of Bermudians who would rise to action on the current escalation of gang violence in Bermuda. Alongside the leadership of Dwayne Caines, Travis Caines, Wayne Caines, and Dr. Lou Matthews, Rise Above, Bermuda, was launched and set out to enlist the talents and energies of Bermudians in engineering real action that could be “direct, immediate, relevant, sustaining and impactful.”

Under the mantra, we have talked enough, we know enough, and we have enough, a national a ‘clarion’ call was sent out via television, radio, print media, as well as popular social media such as facebook. We wanted a nervous, angry and frustrated nation to join us in a campaign, “30 tasks in 30 days” to engage in five important areas: Community Capacity Building; Youth, Vision and Development; Gang Intervention; National Mentoring; and Faith-Based Engagement. We chose these because we wanted the actions to be focus ‘forward’ on strengths we needed to build for a resilient community (versus focusing merely on deficits).

1. Community Capacity Building

We challenge each local neighborhood church, football club and community organization to develop immediate, strategic, public plans for the spiritual, intellectual, social or physical growth of our neighborhoods within the next 30 days.

2. Youth, Vision and Development

We challenge young men and women to choose to live a violence-free existence within the next 30 days.

3. Gang Intervention

We challenge community leaders to directly intervene in the escalating gang violence through talks and actions, which facilitate immediate ceasing of gun violence within the next 30 days.

4. National Mentoring

We challenge each Bermudian to commit to the mentorship of at least one child in a real and tangible way via church, school, etc. within the next 30 days.

5. Faith-Based Engagement

We challenge all men and women of faith to prayerfully consider and engage the spiritual growth of our neighborhoods within the next 30 days.

\$100,000 REWARD

CRIME STOPPERS BERMUDA in partnership with **RISE ABOVE BERMUDA** and the **concerned business community** are offering a reward of up to **\$100,000** for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the deaths of Kumi Hartford, Garry Cann, Shane Minors or Perry Puckerin Jr. or any subsequent individuals killed in gang violence.

Information will be treated in the strictest of confidence, any person with information should contact **CRIME STOPPERS** at **800 8477(TIPS)** or **www.crimestoppers.bm**



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BREAK THE SILENCE! THE CHANGE BEGINS WITH YOU.