

City Officials Look To Better Witness Protection To Help Solve Crimes

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There's a warning out for anyone threatening a witness in a criminal case and it comes as a witness protection plan was unveiled to help police get criminals off the streets.

About 40 people could be eligible for this program right away.

They're witnesses where criminal charges have already been filed against the people making the threats.

They will be put up in hotels or apartments to guarantee their safety until they can testify at trial.

Officials said this is needed because of 100 unsolved homicides in the city of Cincinnati during the past five years.

Vickie Bingham-Johnson gets angry when she looks at the marker for her murdered son.

"That's my baby. That picture is my son and I think it's terrible for someone to see someone kill somebody and won't say a word about it. How can you sleep? What type of person are you?" Bingham-Johnson said.

Fifteen people saw Gino Booker shot to death in Walnut Hills two years ago.

Nobody, to this day, has come forward.

"The jig's up. I'm going to prosecute you with a vengeance and you're going to jail, probably for a very, very long time," said Hamilton County Prosecutor, Mike Allen.

The effort to keep witnesses safe until trial comes from state and county money equalling \$150,000.

Lucy Logan was still hoping someone would come forward with a tip on who killed her son Nolan Moi two years ago.

Moi's murder remains unsolved.

"I had lunch with my daughter today. I can do that. I can't have lunch. I can't go you. I can't do anything with my son ever again. I just know that no mother should die not knowing what happened to their child if they were killed," Logan said.

"It adds to the frustration level of the officers that are assigned to investigate these crimes because as all of you know information is power and there's no exception to that in the rule of policing," police chief Tom Streicher said.

Back in Walnut Hills, Bingham-Johnson urged people not to be afraid to come forward.

"We're not going to give up. We're going to fight until we can't fight any more. That's when we're dead," Johnson said.

Chief Streicher said there's already been an encouraging sign. Seven people came forward right away to provide police with key information when a 15-year-old boy was shot to death Monday in South Cumminsville.

The chief said it is situations like that which will turn the tide on crime.