

**TESTIMONY BY  
THEODORE L. CANADA**

**In 2005, I lost my son Lamar L. Canada in a violent way on the streets of Philadelphia. A very courageous and brave young man by the name of Johnta Gravitt who saw the entire episode, decided to testify to what he saw of the event. Ten days after he gave his testimony, he was killed. It is being said by the police, that there was no connection between his testifying to what he saw of my son's murder, but we all know in our hearts by his stepping up and speaking out is what got him killed. Nothing was done by the City of Philadelphia, or the Police to protect Johnta for stepping up and doing the right thing. The day Johnta testified, the Police did not even have the decency to make sure he was taken home safely. His way of getting home was by bus, but my Uncle took him home instead. Police said it would be safer for Johnta to take a bus then for him to have two white Police officers arrive at his home with him. Wouldn't this have shown, that at least he had some protection around him? Or better still, have two black Police officers take him home in an unmarked car. Did anyone offer him witness protection?**

**We need to make some drastic changes to protect the witnesses to these crimes, it does not always take money to make changes, just common sense.**

**Example:**

- 1. Stop making it so easy for witness information to get out.**
- 2. Anyone who leaks witness information, should be held accountable.**
- 3. There are too many postponements to court cases.**
- 4. Witnesses are afraid to travel back and forth to court.**
- 5. Rotate police officers to let them become more proficient at their jobs.**

**The family of Lamar L. Canada would like the family of Johnta Gravitt to know that we are deeply sorry for their loss and that they have our deepest sympathy and gratitude for his unselfish act. Johnta will always be a Hero in our Hearts.**