

## **OBA will implement restorative justice programme**

**Jarion Richardson**

Good Afternoon,

I have served proudly in the Police Service.

I have also been a soldier in the Royal Bermuda Regiment.

As a medic, I have also been able to interact closely with people from a range of organisations.

I am therefore honoured to be part of this platform to speak about the OBA's plans for

the uniformed services and restorative justice.

It is clear from my experience that there is a need for a new approach to combating crime and dealing with its consequences.

It gives me enormous pleasure to be here now, talking about ways the One Bermuda Alliance intends to add a new front – Restorative Justice - to controlling crime and assisting all impacted to create a better, more functional society.

We need to strengthen our preventative measures, provide support mechanisms at all levels and ages and open the lines of communications.

To this end, the One Bermuda Alliance will implement a Restorative Justice Programme through a Department of Restorative Justice.

This would provide

- conflict resolution between offenders following a violent incident
- increased support for victims of crime
- family conferencing, and pre and post sentence work
- Expunging of certain offences from the records of young offenders for successful completion of community orders.
- Magistrates' Court guided community orders for certain non-violent offences for qualified offenders overseen by revamped Parish Councils with social worker assistance

Restorative justice tries to ensure that offenders take responsibility for what they have done and the harm it has caused to an individual or wider community.

By gaining that understanding, it is hoped they will not engage in repeat offending.

A restorative justice scheme also aims to help victims by providing the necessary support.

To run in tandem to this, the One Bermuda Alliance will also continue to improve upon the Alternatives to Incarceration scheme.

These exist for mental health and addiction related crime and are geared at giving people special support and treatment instead of punishment.

We believe that these measures, coupled with those outlined by my colleagues will

significantly help to make Bermuda a better place.

I am proud to be a candidate in a party that is forward thinking in the approach to the overall area of crime fighting and prevention.

Thank you

Good afternoon,