

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Silent Witness Program	DPM 3.1.135 Effective 11/27/2012 Revised 08/17/2023
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Investigations	Page: 1 of 2

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with guidelines for the Silent Witness Program.

2. GENERAL

3.1 Program

- A. The Mesa Police Department utilizes the "Silent Witness" program operated by the Phoenix Police Department.
- B. The Silent Witness Program is located and administered through the Phoenix Police Department's Community Relations Bureau. The staff consists of Phoenix Police Department detectives and detectives from other police agencies within Maricopa County on an interagency rotation basis.
- C. All callers to Silent Witness are guaranteed anonymity through the use of a code number. The caller will be instructed to re-contact Silent Witness at one of the referral numbers at a future date and time to clarify the information, if necessary.

3.2 Referrals

- A. This program uses donated reward money to involve the community in the fight against crime.
- B. Cash rewards of **UP TO \$2,000** are offered to citizens for information on **unsolved** non-drug felony crimes.
- C. The Silent Witness telephone number is 480-948-6377 (W-I-T-N-E-S-S); 480-837-8446 (T-E-S-T-I-G-O); or statewide toll-free 1-800-343-T-I-P-S (8477). Website: <https://silentwitness.org>; App: P3 Tips.
- D. Calls reference narcotics activity will be referred to the Mesa Police Department's Drug Hotline at 480-440-4264.

3.3 Informants and Payments

- A. An informant **will not** be paid for recovery of property only.
- B. Money is paid for information that leads to an arrest or indictment. A conviction is not necessary.
- C. The Silent Witness Board determines rewards and their amounts. Officers and detectives will not promise specific reward amounts for information.
- D. Reward posters or fliers marked "Silent Witness" will only be disseminated after approval by the Silent Witness supervisor and will be generated by the Silent Witness Unit with proper logos and phone numbers.

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- E. Reward reads "Up to \$2000." This may be increased by contribution, with a signed agreement by both "Silent Witness" and the contributing entity.
 - 1. The agreement is good for one year.
- F. At the end of the year, if there is no arrest or indictment, the contributing entity is given three options:
 - 1. Extend the agreement for one year.
 - 2. Cancel the agreement and get the money back.
 - 3. Donate the money to "Silent Witness."

3.4 Detective/Officer Responsibilities

- A. Once Silent Witness personnel obtain information, they will forward a Silent Witness packet, via U.S. mail and/or fax, to the appropriate bureau supervisor and or detective/officer. **READ AND FOLLOW** the instructions that are included with the packet.
- B. Investigators will receive a Silent Witness Fact Sheet (Phoenix PD Form 80-525D) that must be completed and returned within 30 calendar days.
- C. Mail to: Phoenix Police Department
ATTN: Silent Witness
620 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
- D. Investigators must provide an update on the status of the case every 30 calendar days thereafter through the use of the status sheet.
- E. If an anonymous tip is received by MPD and appears to match the guidelines of the Silent Witness Program, contact Silent Witness so the tip may be considered for the program.
- F. Once Silent Witness approves of the tip, the tip will be E-transferred to Silent Witness. A Silent Witness packet will later be sent regarding the transferred tip. Follow the above listed instructions upon receipt of the packet.
- G. Each investigator receiving information from the program will omit all references to the identity of the Silent Witness caller **from all reports**. Any questions arising during the investigation concerning the identity of the Silent Witness caller should be directed to the Silent Witness staff. **No references** indicating any information received through the Silent Witness Program will be made in reports.
- H. Do not duplicate the fact sheet. It must be returned in its entirety to the Silent Witness Office upon completion of the investigation.