



THE TIP SHEET

JULY 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

DAVID'S LAW

Texas Senate Bill 179, an Act known as David's Law, takes effect September 01, 2017. The Act relates to harassment, bullying, and cyberbullying and requires school districts to adopt policies and procedures concerning bullying and to include "procedures for a student, parent, teacher, or administrator to anonymously report an incident of bullying..."

I've seen advertisements from businesses offering solutions to schools for receiving "anonymous" reports but I've not yet found one that truly is anonymous or that can match what Crime Stoppers offers.



Crime Stoppers has well established procedures for receiving anonymously-submitted information, as will be required by Section 37.0832 (c)(6) of the Texas Education Code, so most Crime Stoppers organizations will be able to assist their area ISDs in conforming to the Act. As with creating a campus Crime Stoppers program, we must develop clear memorandums of understanding with school districts before getting involved.

In addition to clear MOUs, you must be certain that your bylaws don't prohibit you receiving "tips" regarding non-criminal matters. Many Crime Stoppers organizations limit themselves to handling felony crimes (or something similar) and assisting with bullying might fall outside your acceptable practices. I don't expect every bullying report to concern criminal activity and, if your bylaws limit you to handling felony crimes (or just crimes), you might create problems for yourself in the way you raise and expend money regarding non-criminal conduct.

If you decide to assist the schools, a few of the many things you'll need to do are:

- Identify who receives tips for the school (peace officer, counselor, administrator...);
- Train the campus personnel to receive tips via P3 (if applicable);
- Establish tip/information ownership rules;
- Decide if bullying tips that lead to administrative discipline are eligible for rewards (if so, do your bylaws allow it?); and
- Who and how the bullying tips program will be promoted.

The Act requires an anonymous reporting procedure but I wonder how a school will react when someone attempts to use the system as a tool for harassment. As a way to harass or annoy another, one could repeatedly submit bogus tips that attempt to get administrators or school resource officers to contact an alleged bully. In such a case, would the school attempt to identify the tipster? If so, how would you respond?

I see an opportunity for the Act to be useful in our communities by assisting ISDs in conforming to it, reducing costs on the schools, and providing a means to address harassment and possibly save lives. I see an opportunity to once again promote Crime Stoppers and, by being known, solve other crimes. And, I see an opportunity to prevent the confusion that will follow if students are expected to use one "anonymous" reporting system for bullying and harassment relating to school activities and to use Crime Stoppers to tip on school rules violations and criminal acts.

It should go without saying but we live in a litigious society, so...The preceding comments are for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. Contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.

You can find the enrolled version of Senate Bill 179 at
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/SB00179F.pdf>

JB Smith
Chairman, **Texas Crime Stoppers Council**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for our October 2017 conference!
Guadalupe County Crime Stoppers has a lot of fun in store for all attendees
Register Today!!



Texas Best Awards October 2017: The nomination process is now open through the registration [site](#).

Deadline for Texas Best Submissions is Friday, September 29th, 2017.

2017 Texas Crime Stoppers Council Meetings:

October 18, 2017

29th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference

Seguin, TX

Time: 9:30AM

Location: Seguin City Coliseum

(address on registration site)

Happy Anniversary to our Texas Crime Stoppers Organizations celebrating in August!

Happy 7th Anniversary – Karnes County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Happy 10^h Anniversary – Mainland Communities Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Happy 23rd Anniversary – Willacy County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Happy 24th Anniversary – Big Spring/Howard County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Happy 32nd Anniversary – Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Happy 33rd Anniversary – Waller County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Happy 37th Anniversary – Fort Bend County Crime Stoppers, Inc.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I WANT TO SEE YOU ON THE AWARDS STAGE!

Has your organization's Coordinator gone above and beyond the call of duty more times than you can count? Has a member of your organization's Board of Directors brought valuable expertise and resourcefulness to the operations? Has someone shown true grit when times were tough? Did the organization put together an over-the-top creative or informative media campaign?

We know it takes more than passion to achieve your organization's mission and we want to recognize the outstanding organizations and individuals within the Texas Crime Stoppers community. Hurry!

The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, September 29, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**



Click [here](#) for more information about the Texas' Best awards and nomination requirements.

Elaine Windberg, Director

Texas Crime Stoppers
Office of the Governor

TEXAS MOST WANTED

REWARD OFFERED
10 MOST WANTED SEX OFFENDERS



**UP TO
\$3,000 REWARD**

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has added Manuel Muniz, 46, to the Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offenders list, and a cash reward up to \$3,000 is now being offered for information leading to his capture. Muniz is wanted for parole violation and failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements. All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous.

Muniz has been wanted since February 2017. His primary ties are to Bosque County, including the communities of Morgan (his last known address), Walnut Springs and Meridian. He also has ties to Johnson County (including the city of Cleburne) and Fort Worth. In 2007, Muniz was convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl in Bosque County. He subsequently received a 15-year prison sentence. His criminal history also includes assault, burglary and obstruction/retaliation.

Muniz is 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs approximately 235 pounds. He has tattoos of Vietnamese symbols on his right forearm, and other tattoos on his upper arms, abdomen, left thigh and finger; and scars on his right eyebrow and forehead. Muniz also has worked construction in the past. For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=376>.

All tips are anonymous – regardless of how they are submitted, and tipsters will be provided a tip number instead of using a name. DPS investigators work with local law enforcement agencies to select fugitives for the Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive and Sex Offender lists. You can find the current lists – with photos – on the DPS website at

<http://www.dps.texas.gov/texas10mostwanted/>.

Do not attempt to apprehend these fugitives; they are considered armed and dangerous.