



Office of the Governor
Criminal Justice Division
Public Safety Office

**Videoconference Meeting
November 5, 2020 – 9:30AM
Austin, Texas**

The Texas Crime Stoppers Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on November 5, 2020, 9:36am. The meeting was held via videoconference in accordance with Government Code Section 551.127(c).

Council Members Present: Officer Greg New, Chair; Dr. Perry Gilmore, Vice Chair; Lauren Day, Member; Carlo Hernandez, Member; and Stephanie Vanskike, Member.

Council Members Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Margie Fernandez-Prew, Director; Lyndsay Ysla, Lead Program Coordinator, Andrew Friedrichs, Justice Program Administrator.

In Attendance: JB Smith, Lufkin County Crime Stoppers; Ofelia Hunter, Crime Stoppers of South Texas; Laura Gonzalez, and Les Brewskie.

I. Call to Order and Introductions. Chair New called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM. The Chair introduced the members of the Council and the State staff members to the audience members present.

II. Action Item. Council members elected Greg New as council chair Greg New and Dr. Perry Gilmore as vice-chair.

III. Discussion and Possible Action. The Council reviewed minutes of the June 1, 2020 meeting held via videoconference. Motion to approve minutes by Vice-Chair Gilmore and a second by Member Hernandez

IV. Discussion and Possible Action. Continued Certification: A motion by Member Hernandez and a second by Vice-Chair Gilmore, the Council unanimously approved continued certification for the following: Austin County Crime Stoppers; Duval County Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Grimes County Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Guadalupe County Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Hill Country Area Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Moore County Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Navarro County Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Parker County Crime Stoppers Inc., Rusk County Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Top of Texas Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Trinity County Crime Stoppers, Inc.; Vernon-Wilbarger County Crime Stoppers Program, Inc.

Continued Certification contingent on completing training requirements December 7th & 8th Safe School training. With a motion from Member Day and a second from Vice-Chair Gilmore to approve

certification with a corrective action plan to complete training for Atascosa County Crime Stoppers, Eastland County Crime Stoppers Inc., and East Wharton County Crime Stoppers.

Continued Certification contingent if the organizations submits their required documentation, and will report to Council if the organizations fail to complete their Corrective Action Plans. With a motion by Member Hernandez and a second by Vice-Chair Gilmore to approve continued certification for Big Spring Howard County Crime Stoppers Inc. with a corrective action plan to submit a continuing certification application.

Continued Certification contingent on the submission of submitting required continuing certification documentation, submittal of one or more statistical reports, and/or fulfilling their required training. With a motion by Member Hernandez to approve Crime Stoppers of South Texas, Inc., certification contingent after fulfillment of required training; a second by Member Day to approve.

Discussion and Possible Action: Merger of Certified Programs: Crime Stoppers of Lufkin, Inc. submitted an application to merge with Houston County Crime Stoppers to form the merged organization called Deep East Texas Crime Stoppers. After discussion, a motion made by Vice-Chair Perry to approve the merger, which was seconded by Member Hernandez.

V. Discussion and Possible Action. Council received an update from the Director and staff. Director Fernandez-Prew informed the Council on COVID-19's impact on the daily operations of the Texas Crime Stoppers office. Director also notified Council of a recommendation to hire a new program coordinator pending executive approval.

Statewide Statistics and Reporting: Director Fernandez-Prew provided an overview of the statewide statistics and reports for FY 2019 including Campus Crime Stoppers Statistics. She indicated the data was preliminary as several programs had not submitted data but staff were working with programs to get the data finalized.

Automation Improvements or Reporting Forms: Director Fernandez-Prew updated council on annual reporting forms and automation improvements, which will allow the following: Improvements on saving statistical reports with a new "save and return" option to assist in completing the forms, and to increase customer service, an automatic notification function notifies organizations of the incomplete report status, and completed report status. A PDF will automatically be sent to the organization with a copy of the report submitted online.

Crime Stoppers Website: Director Fernandez-Prew explains the development of a Crime Stoppers website and the improvement of reporting processes for next year. More details will be shared as staff continue to explore this development.

FY 2021 Grant Applications and Monitoring Reviews Director Fernandez-Prew provided an overview of 2021 grant funding and monitoring reviews. Thirty-seven local Crime Stoppers organizations received a 2021 grant award. Crime Stoppers organizations submitted \$741,381 in grant application requests for FY 2021 with eight grants unfunded. Additionally, travel expenses were cut from current grants due to conference cancellations because of the pandemic. Further, there are 14 organizations undergoing a monitoring review, which includes a review of restricted funds accounts, excess funds accounts, account statements, and supporting documentation.

Training Updates: Lead Program Coordinator Ysla reported that all training, including basic courses and annual conferences have been rescheduled to next year. A Zoom meeting and small training to be held for student ambassadors.

Annual Conference Awards: Director Fernandez-Prew discussed that although annual conferences were rescheduled to next year, the Texas Best Awards will go on. Nomination forms will be posted in December and winners are to be announced in March 2021.

Digital Billboard Initiative: Director Fernandez-Prew discussed a digital billboard project with South Texas HIDTA, who is conducting a twelve (12) week digital billboard campaign in 2021 and wants to partner with seven Crime Stoppers in south Texas. The billboards will be free, no cost to Crime Stoppers; it will advertise local organization's logo and hotline number. Crime Stoppers organizations will maintain statistics of calls received during the 12-week period and report separate statistics to South Texas HIDTA.

Discuss revision of the Probation Fee Repayment Report (PFRR) and Survey Results. There was a discussion on survey results and PFRR revisions. 28 responses were taken into consideration for the revision of the PFRR. Motion made by Vice-Chair Gilmore to approve PFRR form and seconded by Member Day.

Discuss revision of the Annual Board Information Update form: Director Fernandez-Prew discussed revisions to include changes to language where needed and make drop down boxes shorter. Motion made by Vice-Chair Gilmore and a second by Member Hernandez to approve.

VI. Public Comment. Less Brewski, Crime Stoppers of Wilson County requested clarification about what constituted as an umbrella organization and if their safe school program would be under the Houston programs. After discussion, JB Smith of Deep East Texas Crime Stoppers and the Association for Texas Crime Stoppers provided clarification on umbrella organizations and safe school programs.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action. Schedule next meeting: Council and Staff discussed the next meeting to be held in the spring, possibly March 2021 and will select a date to announce winners of the Texas Best Awards. Staff will allow members time to check their calendars to select a date.

VIII. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 11:05 Pm by Vice-Chair Gilmore and a second by Member Hernandez. Motion carried unanimously by council. Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: _____ Date _____
Margie Fernandez-Prew, Director, Texas Crime Stoppers

Minutes Approved by: _____ Date _____
Gregory F. New, Chair, Texas Crime Stoppers Council