

The Tip Sheet



**July
2017**

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Message from the Chairman

People Use Useful Programs

What do successful Crime Stoppers organizations have in common? Do they all have donors with deep pockets? Do they all serve areas with overly high crime rates? Do they all have public relations specialists on their boards? No, no, and no. The answer is “usefulness”.

Usefulness is single commonality I find in successful organizations. Large or small, if you find ways to be useful to your community, you will be successful. You’ll likely see increased participation from area law enforcement and tipsters, board members showing more interest in organizational activities, and donors more willing to help you meet your fundraising goals.

How do we become useful?

In some communities, a Crime Stoppers organization is useful simply by operating a tipline and website. In other communities, possibly the majority of communities, we have to find additional ways to help.

Whatever I do, whether through the police department or Crime Stoppers, I always consider the potential impact on quality of life for the community. Having a positive effect on quality of will make you a useful program that people will want to use and support. Something as small as putting a link on your website that will help a resident report a pothole or a streetlamp being out can mean a lot for a resident’s quality of life and for reducing crime. You’re skeptical, I know, so I’ll explain.

Members of the community will start to pay attention to their surroundings if they know someone will hear their complaints (you need only to direct them to the correct agency). If they’re paying attention and see your website as a useful portal for reaching the proper authority, they’re likely to notice suspicious activity and report it to Crime Stoppers. When roads are properly maintained, streetlamps are operational, and residents’ calls are keeping public service agencies in the area, criminals will find somewhere else to attack. Helping reduce crime + helping to improve quality of life = Useful.

I’m not suggesting that you need to do more than receive tips and pay rewards but if that is your only function as a CS organization, you need to ensure the community knows how useful you’ve been; share your successes. Still, there are endless opportunities if you want, or need, to do more.

Crime Stoppers of Houston is clear example of an organization that found ways to be useful to its community. Their crime solving and crime prevention activities are very successful but they fill other needs in their community and they do so without losing focus on their primary goal of helping law enforcement fight crime. Safe School, Safe Community, Parents Against Crime, and Fallen Hero Project are just a few of the programs that endear Crime Stoppers of Houston to its community. Each of these programs tie into crime fighting and ensure the success of the tip-taking program.

It doesn’t take as much time or effort as you might think to involve school campuses in your regular CS activities, to partner with an animal control agency and accept tips regarding animal abuse and neglect, or to guide citizens in forming neighborhood associations. Every community is different but all communities have needs that you can address.

Before you jump into any new program, look at your bylaws. Your organization’s bylaws might limit you to receiving tips and paying rewards for felony crimes. If so, consider updating them and then make yourself useful.

If you haven’t done so in a while, and even if you have, attend a Basic Crime Stoppers course. Over the last year, we’ve held classes in Conroe, Floresville, Fredericksburg, Galveston, Grand Prairie, Lufkin, and Paris. If we didn’t get close enough to you, contact Texas Crime Stoppers and tell us where you need us. We’ll help you in your quest to become useful.

JB Smith

Chairman, Texas Crime Stoppers Council



Announcements

REGISTRATION IS **NOW OPEN** FOR OUR UPCOMING CONFERENCE!
Register [HERE!](#)



Texas Best Awards October 2017: Nominations being accepted through the conference registration [site](#).

2017 Texas Crime Stoppers Council Meetings:

October 17, 2017
29th Annual Crime Stoppers Conference
Seguin, TX
Time and Location: TBD

End of an Era:

Since 1993, when **University High School Crime Stoppers** first opened its doors, it has been dedicated to providing a safe learning environment for students, teachers, and faculty by providing an alternative means to solve and reduce crime on campus.

Since inception, University High School Crime Stoppers has proven itself as a successful and productive organization of outstanding volunteers. The organization cleared 226 cases, received 285 tips and paid \$14,285 in rewards. The efforts of the organization's volunteers led to \$80,991 in recovered property, the seizure of illegal drugs with an estimated value of \$2,495, and recovered 64 weapons.

After 24 years of providing an anonymous way to report information to law enforcement and campus administrators, University High School Crime Stoppers has announced it will cease operations at the end of July. We would like to also wish Karen Baier a happy retirement and best wishes in your next chapter! Thank you for everything you have done for University High School Crime Stoppers in the last 24 years.

Since inception in 1991, **Laredo ISD Crime Stoppers** has proven itself as a successful and productive organization of outstanding volunteers. The organization cleared 3,276 cases, received 4,052 tips and paid \$43,085 in rewards. The efforts of the organization's volunteers led to \$246,275 in recovered property, the seizure of illegal drugs with an estimated value of \$33,526, and recovered 379 weapons.

After 26 years of service to their campuses, Laredo ISD Crime Stoppers has announced it will cease operations at the end of July.

Welcome to Texas Crime Stoppers!

We are pleased to announce that the Texas Crime Stoppers Community is expanding!! We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest certified programs; **Edinburg Crime Stoppers**, **Rio Grande City Crime Stoppers**, and **San Juan Crime Stoppers** all servicing Hidalgo County.

Friendly Reminder: We would like to remind all Crime Stoppers Organizations that tracking your volunteer hours will be a new requirement on the annual PFRR. Tracking allows you record the number of hours and more importantly the value your volunteers provide to your organization! Tracking methods are readily available on smartphone apps and other available technology to make it easy to record and track.

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

Happy 10th Anniversary - **Crime Stoppers "Behind the Walls"**

Happy 26th Anniversary - **Student Crime Stoppers of Amarillo, Inc.**

Happy 31st Anniversary - **Hill Country Area Crime Stoppers, Inc.**

Happy 31st Anniversary - **West Wharton County Crime Stoppers**

Happy 33rd Anniversary - **Copperas Cove Crime Stoppers, Inc.**

Happy 33rd Anniversary - **Crime Stoppers of Midland, Inc.**

Happy 35th Anniversary - **Matagorda County Crime Stoppers, Inc.**

Happy 36th Anniversary - **Montgomery County Crime Stoppers, Inc. d.b.a. Multi-County Crime Stoppers**



Director's Message

Did you forget something?

*"Oh, the moon and stars no longer shine,
the dream is gone I thought was mine,
there's nothin' left for me to do..."*

Is your Crime Stoppers organization singing the blues?

There are times when your entire organization will be energized, work will get done ahead of schedule, new ideas will spring up, and people will gravitate to your organization... And, there are times when the team will seem despondent, depressed, and tired. Calls won't get made, planned events fall to the wayside, and it seems like a fight just to keep the organization afloat...

Your organization can get its boogie back! It's up to you, as the leaders of your organization to re-energize, refocus, and turn the ship around. Take responsibility for the situation and get your team on the same page.

Acknowledge the problem. Too many organizations are afraid that if they acknowledge that their team is de-energized and de-focused, things will only get worse. Nothing could be further from the truth. Recognizing and naming the problem greatly speeds recovery time. Hold a meeting and state the obvious: we're in a rut, and we need to get out of it.

Get mission focused. Many times, the reason an organization finds itself singing the blues is because the board is spending all of their energy working on the little problems and issues that pop up, instead of focusing on the big picture: the mission of preventing and solving crime in your community.

Get moving. The best way to get moving again is to get your team focused on your mission. Remind yourselves why your organization exists in the first place. Get out into the field to do some work on the ground! Nothing gets your energy back more than seeing all of the good work your organization is doing for your community.

Have a really big plan. Finally, develop a plan for moving forward. Not a wishy-washy, here's what we always do, so that's what we are going to do again this year, plan. Develop a really, really big plan that is truly worthy of your mission. Make the plan so big and so exciting that it can't help but to reinvigorate your entire organization.

Implement your plan, and keep your vision and your mission front and center.

You can't roller skate in a buffalo herd, so knuckle down, buckle down, and do it, do it, do it!

Elaine Windberg, Director

Texas Crime Stoppers

Office of the Governor

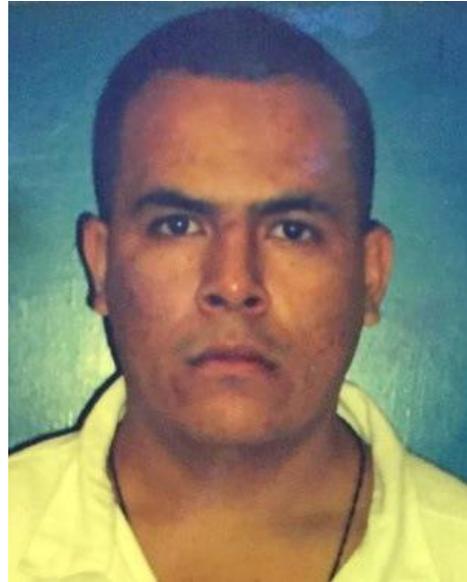


Texas Most Wanted

REWARD OFFERED 10 MOST WANTED FUGITIVES



**UP TO
\$10,000 REWARD**



Reward is increased to \$10,000 for tips received on this Fugitive during the month of July 2017.

On January 30, 2005, Jose Fernando BUSTOS-DIAZ was working as a ranch hand at The Oaks of Kendalwood stables in northwest Harris County when he committed a homicide. He pleaded guilty to Murder and received a 35-year sentence in TDCJ prison. On April 6, 2010, BUSTOS-DIAZ escaped from the TDCJ Briscoe Unit in Dilley, Texas, located in Frio County approximately 70 miles southwest of San Antonio. On the same day, TDCJ and the Frio County Sheriff's Office both issued warrants for his arrest for Escape. On April 13, the U.S. Marshals Service issued a warrant for Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution. BUSTOS-DIAZ is believed to have fled to Mexico.

Texas Crime Stoppers, which is funded by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, offers cash rewards to any person who provides information that leads to the arrest of one of the Texas 10 Most Wanted fugitives or sex offenders. So far in 2017, Texas Crime Stoppers has paid \$32,500 in total rewards for anonymous tips that resulted in arrests.

To be eligible for the cash rewards, tipsters must provide information to authorities using one of the five following methods:

- Call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).
- Text the letters "DPS" – followed by your tip – to 274637 (CRIMES) from your cell phone.
- Submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under their picture.
- Submit a Facebook tip at <http://www.facebook.com/texas10mostwanted> by clicking the "SUBMIT A TIP" link (under the "About" section).
- Submit a tip through the DPS Mobile App. The app is currently available for iPhone users on the Apple App Store: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/texas-dps/id902092368?mt=8>) and for Android users on Google Play: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microassist.texasdps&hl=en>).

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.