



THE TIP SHEET

SEPTEMBER 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

CRISIS RESPONSE AS AN ORGANIZATION

I know some of you were directly impacted by Hurricane Harvey. I pray your losses were minimal and that your recovery will be quick. The rest of us want to help but we don't know if we're allowed. When we see the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey and watch our neighbors, both near and far, hurting, we want to do all we can to assist. We feel it is our duty, as members of nonprofit organizations, to be charitable. Maybe it is our duty and maybe it's not.

I've been asked the same question several times since the storm made landfall; "can we, as the board of directors of a crime stoppers organization, donate money to the relief effort". My response is always the same—if you know me, you probably can guess what that is—and that's to ask; "what do your bylaws say?"

For most of us, our bylaws were setup with the idea that we'd pay rewards for crime-solving tips, nothing else; just cash for anonymous information. Few of our organizations were designed for giving grants, buying law enforcement equipment, or paying for LE officers to attend non-crime stoppers training. Even fewer were established to giveaway money for non-law enforcement activities. This means "no" is likely the answer to the question "can my CS organization donate to The Humane Society".

If we are not setup for a particular function but we spend our funds for that function, we might jeopardize our nonprofit and tax exempt status. Also, we risk hurting our supporters if we accept and expend donations for activities that are not covered by our articles of incorporation/certificate of formation or bylaws. Not only might we upset them by spending their donated money on activities outside our operational scope, they likely cannot take a tax deduction if they give money for an activity not covered by our nonprofit purpose. It's important to remember that we have a job to do and that job requires us to raise money; upsetting our donors is not the way to do it.

Before you think I'm a curmudgeon, I'll let you know that there might be a way to do what you want.

Despite a potential inability to donate funds to evacuees, shelters or other charitable organizations there may be ways you can assist. The best way, is for the individual members of your organization to donate their own money to the cause; even if Crime Stoppers can't give money, the members of Crime Stoppers, as a group, probably can. The other way is to do exactly what your bylaws say you'll do. For my organization, that is to "...reduce crime in communities throughout the Deep East Texas region and to reduce the crime-prevention and crime-solving burdens on area law enforcement agencies." We could not, within those guidelines, give money to evacuees or another charity but we could support the efforts of area law enforcement agencies in any number of ways. By supporting the LE agencies, we free up the other charities to assist the rest of the community and we support the community by keeping the officers on the job. Don't ignore your bylaws and policies, change them if you dislike what they say you can and cannot do. Your bylaws should have a mechanism for amendment. If so, and if you decide to make changes, remember what your true purpose is as a crime stoppers organization. Don't make decisions based upon the emotions we're all feeling at this moment. Many charitable organizations that do the things we don't but only we can do what crime stoppers does.

In case you weren't paying attention, this Chairman's Message is the fifth this year during which I've referenced reviewing, updating, and following your bylaws. The detective side of my brain tells me that's a clue pointing to the importance of our bylaws and policies.

JB Smith

Chairman, Texas Crime Stoppers Council



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Early bird registration is **NOW OPEN** through September 22.
Check out the speaker line up, fun night plans, and **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)

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

On September 19th and 20th we are hosting our **Technology Related Crimes Against Children Conference** in Brownsville, which focuses on the investigation, response, and prosecution of the crimes against children that utilize Internet technologies. Only TCOLE and CLE credit is offered for this course, but anyone is invited to attend. For more information and to register click [here](#).

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

Happy 10th Anniversary – **Cameron County Crime Stoppers, Inc.**
Happy 14th Anniversary – **Duval County Crime Stoppers, Inc.**
Happy 16th Anniversary – **Guadalupe County Crime Stoppers, Inc.**
Happy 22nd Anniversary – **Milam County Crime Stoppers, Inc.**
Happy 28th Anniversary – **Marshall High School Crime Stoppers, Inc.**
Happy 31st Anniversary – **Polk County Crime Stoppers, Inc.**
Happy 35th Anniversary – **Nolan County Crime Stoppers, Inc.**
Happy 36th Anniversary – **Nacogdoches Crime Stoppers Program, Inc.**
Happy 38th Anniversary – **North Texas Crime Commission, Inc.**

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

TEXAS BEST AWARDS

I know your Crime Stoppers phones are ringing off the hook with tips, but have you answered the call for the annual Texas' Best awards?

These annual Texas' Best awards fulfill three main objectives: To recognize and reward excellence in Texas Crime Stoppers organizations. To assist organizations in their pursuit of excellence by providing them with important performance information. To raise public awareness about their important contribution to the State of Texas.

All certified Texas Crime Stoppers organizations in good standing are encouraged to submit nominations for the 29th Annual Texas' Best Awards dinner to be held October 19, 2017 in Seguin, Texas.

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
\$15,000 REWARD**

Benjamin DOMINGUEZ is a sexually violent predator from the El Paso, Texas area, and is a confirmed Barrio Azteca gang member. He has an extensive violent criminal history and has used numerous alias names. In 2001, DOMINGUEZ was convicted of Indecency with a Child by Exposure against a 14-year-old female victim.

He served two years in TDCJ before being released. He was arrested again for Indecent Exposure a few months later and returned to TDCJ. He has also served time in New Mexico state prison. In 2010, New Mexico Corrections Department, Adult Probation and Parole Division issued a warrant for DOMINGUEZ's arrest. A warrant has also been issued in El Paso County for DOMINGUEZ's arrest for Indecency with a Child by Exposure.

DOMINGUEZ is believed to be a transient and has lived in El Paso and Socorro, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Modesto, California.

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.