

**LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
OF TEXAS**

CRIME STOPPERS

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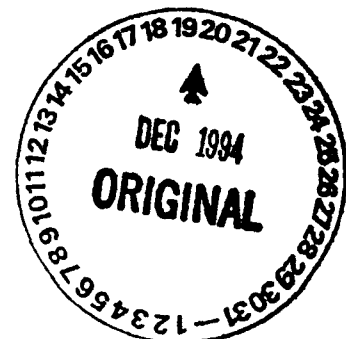
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1.

INTRODUCTION

When a criminal case is not solved within a reasonable length of time, the leads diminish, the trail becomes cold, evidence becomes unattainable, and the crime increasingly more difficult to solve. For these reasons files contain many unsolved cases. When this occurs, a method is needed that will re-awaken public interest in the case and persuade citizens to help by providing the needed information that could lead to the solution of the crime.

Citizens may witness all or part of a crime and not be aware of what they have seen. Consequently, they may unknowingly possess key information that could aid the police in solving this crime. In some instances, citizens do not contact police with information out of fear that if they reveal their identity they will expose themselves to the acts of retaliation by the criminal. In most instances, these citizens will not come forward with the needed information because they are uncertain who they should contact in the police organization and what procedure to follow when supplying information.

The CRIME STOPPERS program provides a method of overcoming these limitations by involving citizens in solving crime.

Through the CRIME STOPPERS program, citizens who have knowledge of a specific crime are encouraged, either for civic or for monetary reasons, to come forward to police with this information. The program allows any citizen supplying information to remain completely anonymous if they so desire. In this way, the citizen is assured that his identity will be protected and that any information relayed will be utilized.

To effectively integrate the knowledge of the citizenry, CRIME STOPPERS must receive the support of the law enforcement and media communities.¹

This paper is being written to show the significance of the CRIME STOPPERS programs. It will also provide information to any agency, thinking of starting their own CRIME STOPPERS program, so they see that CRIME STOPPERS is a worthwhile organization. The end result is that more crimes are being solved thanks to the CRIME STOPPERS programs.

As law enforcement managers it is important to encourage programs, such as CRIME STOPPERS, into our communities, and to allow the police officers needed to assist in the CRIME STOPPERS operation. The CRIME STOPPERS program is one of those programs that is accepted by the public without reservations.

The following scenario is a good example of why we need CRIME STOPPERS programs in our country today:

It is 3:00 a.m. and the midnight patrol officer is making his rounds. He turns the corner, and what does he see? It is a body laying in the middle of the street! There is no one around, no vehicles in sight. He checks out with his dispatcher and exits the patrol car. He runs up to the body and sees it appears to be a young male about fifteen years old. The boy is not moving. The officer checks for a pulse and finds none. Upon closer examination he finds that the boy has been shot. This poor boy is dead!

Who is he? Why did this happen? Who did this to him? There are a thousand questions that rush through the officer's mind. No witnesses come forward and after days of investigation the officer has neither suspects nor motives. The parents reported the boy missing the day after the officer found the body. The police requested that the parents go to the morgue to identify the body of their oldest son.

What is the Officer to do? He is receiving pressure from his supervisors, the boy's parents and friends, and the community to identify the murder of this poor young man. He has no witnesses, no motives. He has nothing, nothing at all to go on, yet he must try to solve this crime.

The officer presents the case to CRIME STOPPERS. The media publicizes the case. The crime is re-enacted on television, printed in the newspaper and is talked about on the radio. CRIME STOPPERS encourages everyone to call if they have any information about the crime.

Within a couple of days CRIME STOPPERS receives a call from a woman who says she does not want to give her name but she has some information about the boy that was found dead the other morning. She said she had been in a convenience store a few minutes after 2:00 am on the morning the boy had been found. This store was about three blocks from the scene of the crime. She went on to explain that she worked until a few minutes before 2:00 am and she stopped by the store on her way home. When she left, she saw two boys who appeared to be fighting. One of the boys she recognized as the boy who lives in the upstairs apartment in the 300 block of West Willow Street. CRIME STOPPERS thanked the woman for her help,

issued her a code number and notified the investigating officer about the call.

The investigating officer responded to the 300 block of West Willow. There was only one set of apartments with an upstairs. He walked up the stairs and knocked on the door. The door was opened by a young boy about 16 years old. The boy looked at the officer and said, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to kill him!" Another crime has been solved thanks to CRIME STOPPERS!

The above scenario was a dramatization of how CRIME STOPPERS really can work. In this case the Police had no leads, and no suspects. There is a chance this crime may not have solved if it had not been for CRIME STOPPERS.

This is but one example of the type of crime that law enforcement officers face each day. They need the help of the citizens and CRIME STOPPERS is a perfect example of how the citizens can help, not only the law enforcement, but also themselves, be seeing to it that the criminals are caught and punished. The more criminals we get off our streets the better our communities will be to raise our children and grandchildren.

CRIME STOPPERS is a form of community oriented policing. Community oriented police occurs when the community gets together and helps the police to enforce the laws of their community which results in a better place to live. The use of community oriented policing is rapidly growing within the law

enforcement. Agencies are getting their officers out of the patrol cars and back on the streets among the people.

It is a well known fact that the better relations you have with the people, the more likely they are to assist you when you need it. It works both ways. The better you know the people of the community, the harder you will work to help them solve their problems.

There are many things that we do in my community that are not what most consider a police function. We have sent officers to the store for the elderly or handicapped when there was no other way for them to get groceries or medicine. We have officers who have changed light bulbs for people who just did not have the ability of doing it themselves. This may seem a bit "Mayberry" to most of you, but that citizen will remember those nice things the policemen did for them and if they can help the police they will not hesitate to call.

Some of the officers (especially the rookies) may think this is not why they joined the police department, but after they have performed a couple of these functions, or when one of those nice elderly or handicapped citizens, that he has helped, shows up at the police station with a bunch of cookies the next day to show their appreciation, the officers stop and

think about it for a minute. They began to realize just how much their small act meant to the citizen.

II.**HISTORY OF CRIME STOPPERS**

The CRIME STOPPERS program began in September 1976. A Detective, Greg MacAleese, founded the program while working for the Police Department in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

MacAleese was the investigating officer on a homicide which had occurred. As in the story used in the introduction, he had no leads and no witnesses. Out of desperation he put an ad in the local newspaper. In the ad he described the crime and promised to keep the person anonymous and offered a cash reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for the commission of this crime.

Within twenty-four hours after the newspaper hit the street, he had learned the identity of the person responsible, made the arrest and solved the crime. Thus, CRIME STOPPERS was born. Since that time it has spread all over the United States and into many foreign countries.

CRIME STOPPERS programs, operating internationally, have an impressive track record. Since the inception of the first program in Albuquerque, New Mexico in September 1976, the number of programs has grown to approximately 900 in the United States as well as programs in Canada, Africa, Australia, England, and the Netherlands. These programs

operating through August 1991 have collectively been responsible for solving more than 430,000 felony cases, recovering more than \$2.1 billion in stolen property and illegal narcotics, and convicting 96 percent of the defendants arrested.

There are three levels of the CRIME STOPPERS programs: local non-profit CRIME STOPPERS, a statewide CRIME STOPPERS organization (as in Texas and New Mexico), and CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. (a non-profit corporation designated to promote CRIME STOPPERS programs throughout the world and assisting the coordination and exchange of information among the state and local programs). CRIME STOPPERS programs can be extremely beneficial in combating the ever present crime problem. It is an effective tool in which the private citizen joins together with law enforcement officials to solve crime. These programs serve as a vehicle for private citizens to relay criminal information to police and still remain anonymous. However, if this program is to continue its success, it will take the total dedicated efforts of everyone involved.²

A.**TEXAS**

Currently there are over 200 local CRIME STOPPERS and Campus CRIME STOPPERS programs operating throughout Texas with many other communities organizing operational CRIME STOPPERS programs. County-wide and regional CRIME STOPPERS programs are being developed in areas where no single agency has sufficient manpower or finances to support the program.

Local CRIME STOPPERS programs are designed to achieve citizen interest and involvement through three methods:

1. Anonymity.
2. The establishment of a reward system which will pay for the information leading to the arrest and indictment of persons involved in crimes.
3. The selection of an unsolved "crime of the week" to be featured by the reenactment in a nightly television news broadcast, radio spots and newspaper articles.³

B.**INTERNATIONALLY**

There are at least 649 CRIME STOPPERS operating internationally at this time. These programs all fall under the "umbrella" of CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. (CSI).

CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL has helped these hundreds of programs to :

1. solve over 470,000 crimes
2. recover nearly three billion dollars in stolen property and narcotics
3. retain a 97 percent conviction rate for over 90,000 defendants tried.⁴

As the world headquarters, CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. is the central source for CRIME STOPPERS materials, and the main source of problem-solving for individual programs. There is a minimal charge for information needed to start a CRIME STOPPERS program.

There is a 30 member board of directors which establishes policy and represents the members of CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL.

From its world headquarters, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. staff:

1. Provide trouble-shooting and general support from the founder and Executive Director of CRIME STOPPERS, INC., Greg MacAleese, as well as professional legal counsel from Judge Richard Carter.
2. Develops and distributes a comprehensive CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL Operations Manual and training videos and video tapes describing the operation of CRIME STOPPERS and STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS in the schools.
3. Produces public relations and promotional tools.
4. Designs and implements over 100 hours of training a year for CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL programs.
5. Processes hundreds of inquiries each month concerning statistics, legal issues, fund raising, publicity, promotion, insurance, and media, board and Police relations.
6. Maintains an 800-TIPS line that covers CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL program tips lines as needed and handles referrals to CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL programs throughout the world.
7. Sponsors, with a host program, the Annual CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL Conference-in Calgary, Canada in 1993 and in Hawaii in 1994-where law enforcement, community and media representatives from around the world exchange information and participate in professional training; and where CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, INC awards are presented.
8. Publishes "THE CALLER", a monthly magazine containing statistical information, instruction, advice, updates, features articles and accounts of CRIME STOPPERS successes.
9. Provide a CRIME STOPPERS Directory of Programs.
10. Develops resources for the Headquarter's operations.
11. Makes on-site visits.
12. Provides a toll-free line for incoming calls.⁵

C. CONTRAST/"COP" CONCEPT

The Police officer's concept of CRIME STOPPERS is very favorable. It is a "win-win" situation. The Police Department/Police Officers get the credit for solving the crime, the victim sees that the suspect has been arrested and will be tried for the crime and the informant who called CRIME STOPPERS will received a cash reward for the telephone call. What could be better? The only draw back to the program comes when the informant does not give enough information and there is not a fast way to contact them for more information. If more information is needed from the informant the informant's code number is published in the newspaper and mentioned on the radio that they need to contact CRIME STOPPERS. When they call in they are asked for their code number and asked to repeat the information they gave when they first called. This verifies that they are indeed the person who called the first time.

III. THE CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM-A CASE ANALYSIS

The PERRYTON-OCHILTREE COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS was implemented in May, 1988. I have held the position of Coordinator for the PERRYTON-OCHILTREE COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS for about three years. This position was assumed after the program had been in operation for about three years. The coordinator before me was Sgt. Don Richardson. We shared an office and naturally I saw what he was working on. When the opening came up for CRIME STOPPERS coordinator it was given to me.

He and I together drew a logo. It was based upon the combination of several other CRIME STOPPER program logos. I was fortunate enough to have Sgt. Richardson's assistance when I assumed the position as CRIME STOPPERS coordinator, he showed me many things would have taken me months to learn on my own.

I soon learned that being CRIME STOPPERS coordinator was not going to be an easy position to fill. The hardest thing I had to overcome was the lack of money in the reward fund. We used to go around to the different businesses and ask for donations every couple of months. There were several times that the board members even chipped in, so we would have the money to operate and pay rewards.

This used to be a big problem before we found a fund raiser that really works for us. The fund raiser, along with the money we receive from the probation department, really helped us climb out of the red and into the black. There will be more about the fund raiser and the money received from the probation department later. Once we got the money problem behind us, things really started running smoothly.

The board meets once a month, for a noon luncheon. The meetings usually take about an hour. We discuss the minutes from the last meeting, any rewards that may need to be paid, any new business, any old business, pay the bills and hear a report from the treasurer.

If there is a reward that needs to be paid, I present a rough outline of the case to the board and they decide the monetary value of the tip. There is a guideline that we follow. In this guideline there are several categories. There is a certain amount of points for each category. There is a certain amount of points given for the crime depending on how serious it was, how much risk the informant is in for giving the information, how many suspects are going to be arrested and the value of any property that may have been taken. After all these factors have been decided you add up the points and pay from a pre-determined scale.

Each program has a different way of paying informants. The system we use was in effect when I took over the position of coordinator. Although the system we use works for us it is suggested that one of the board members be responsible for making the reward payments and not the coordinator. This is the way we make our payments. The PERRYTON-OCHILTREE COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS program writes a check to the coordinator and the First National Bank. The check has to be signed by two of the officers from the CRIME STOPPERS board. The coordinator and a bank officer must endorse the check before it can be cashed. The cash can be given to the coordinator who pays the informant if they do not mind him knowing who they are. If the informant wishes to remain anonymous he/she can be given a code name and told to drive through a certain lane at the drive in bank. Tell the teller he/she needs to pickup an envelope which has the code name you have given the informant.

There are many other ways which the informant can be paid. I have left envelopes in mail boxes of houses that are empty. I have left an envelope behind a telephone pole out in the country.

It is very important to the program that you go along with the wishes of the informant. If they do not wish to be identified do what ever it takes to make sure you do not find

out who they are. Even if you think that you may know the person that is calling CRIME STOPPERS with information do not call them by name or indicate you know who they are.

There are several reasons for informants staying anonymous. One of the best reason I know of is that if you are called to the witness stand and the judge says "Who was it that called CRIME STOPPERS with that information". You can honestly say "I do not know Your Honor. All I knew the informant by was a code number which I had issued them." Don't even give the sex of the informant unless you are ordered to do so.

CRIME STOPPERS has the reputation for being confidential and or anonymous. Please help us keep that reputation.

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF A CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM

Interest in the CRIME STOPPERS programs has really peaked since the first STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS program was started in Colorado almost 11 years ago. There are many problems in our school and in the face of growing menace, young people are discovering (right along with their parents) that the authorities can't fight this problem alone. They need the help of the student/citizen: they need the help of STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS.

Some people said we didn't need the STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS program but most of them agreed with the idea and said "It's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it."⁶

The following statistics are called "Teens and the hard facts":

TEEN AND STREET

Teenagers are the group most victimized by crime in the U.S. Although the 12-19 age group constitutes only 14% of the population age 12 and older, teens are victims in three out of ten crimes and one out of four thefts. Teenagers are the least likely group to report the crime.⁷

Between 1986 & 1991, the juvenile violent crime arrest rate for youths ages 10-17 increased by 48%. In 1991, 131,000 youth arrest were made for rape, robbery,

homicide, or aggravated assault--42,000 more than in 1986.⁸

Black males ages 16-19 face an enormous risk of death by murder (54.3 per 100,000 versus 12.6 for black females the same age). White males 16-19 face an 8.7 per 100,000 risk of murder, white females 16-19 face a 3.4 per 100,000 risk.⁹

Women ages 12-14 were nearly three times more likely to be raped than women in older age groups.¹⁰

The firearm death rate among teenagers 15-19 increased 77%, from 1985-1990, reaching the highest level to date. The firearm homicide rate for black teenage males nearly tripled.¹¹

While alcohol and other drug use declined among high school seniors in 1992, 8th graders reported increased drug use. In addition the 8th graders used alcohol at nearly the same rates as 1991--nearly 70% has used alcohol at least once.¹²

Five percent of American teens have no productive role in society--they aren't in school and don't have jobs, either in or outside the home.¹³

TEENS AT SCHOOL

Over half of all violent crimes against teenagers ages 12-19 occur in school buildings, on school property, or on the street. Street crimes are three times more likely than crimes in school buildings to have been committed by an offender with a weapon.¹⁴

One in eight students has feared being attacked going to or from school. In central cities one out of five has feared such an attack.¹⁵

One student in fifteen reported avoiding places at school out of fear of an attack. Younger students (age 12 or so) were twice as likely as students age 18 to avoid places at school because they feared being attacked.¹⁶

Gang or drug disputes were the leading cause of school gun violence (18%). Longstanding arguments (15%), romantic disagreements (12%), fights over possessions (10%) and accidents (13%) were also common.¹⁷

Fifteen percent of students reported gangs present at their school. Of these, 35% said they feared attack at school, and 24% feared going to and from school. Where gangs were present, 13% of the students avoided areas inside the school for fear of attack.¹⁸

TEENS AT HOME

In 1992, an estimated 1,261 children were known to have died from child abuse. Those who survive often suffer long lasting pain and even disability from serious injuries and emotional trauma.¹⁹

In 1992, an estimated 2.9 million suspected child abuse incidents were reported in the United States.²⁰

Being abused or neglected as a child increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 53%, as an adult by 38%, and for a violent crime by 38%.²¹

It is for the reasons above that I gave serious thought to implementing a STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS program.

In August, 1994 ,I did just that, I implemented a STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS program in Perryton and I can speak from experience that there is a lot of hard work that goes into starting a new program. I am also the coordinator for this program. It does not matter if it is an adult program or a student program the coordinator does a lot more than most people realize.

The first problem that many run into when starting a STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS program is convincing the principals in the schools that there is a problem. Many of them just do

not want to admit that their school has problems. On the other hand the "Fear of guns, drugs, violence in schools spurs new interest in STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS programs". ²²

The first thing I did was visit with the principals. They were all very open to the idea of having the CRIME STOPPERS programs in their schools.

Next, I contacted the news media. I asked them to announce that I was thinking about starting a STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS program in the schools. Students interested in being on the board of directors were asked to come by the Police Department and pick up an application. I told them that after the deadline for applications, I would meet with the faculty from the schools and together we would pick the board.

I gave a lot of thought as to how it would work. I wanted it to work smoothly. I had to figure a way that a student who had information could relay this information and still remain anonymous. I first thought about using a telephone but the students don't have access to a telephone where there is any privacy. I decided that I would select one of the faculty at each of the schools that the students felt comfortable with. The student would be able to go to the faculty member with their information and feel sure that this faculty member would

not tell anyone who it was that passed along the information to CRIME STOPPERS.

I thought about this for some time before I realized that there is one person in each of the schools that the students are already comfortable with. This person already has the trust of the students and they know they can talk about anything with this person and it will go no further. This person is the school counselor. I visited with each of the counselors who agreed to serve in this position.

I had asked several teachers, principals and students at what age should the students be allowed to set on the STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS board of directors. It was decided that I would have two representatives from classes eight through twelve. There would also be several adults, including myself, who would serve as advisory board members.

I decided that as soon as I got the program on its feet and running I would step aside and let the students run their own program. I told them I would always be there for questions and I might make a few suggestions from time to time, but they would only be suggestions and not demands. It is their board and they would have full power to make whatever decisions they wanted.

I told them at the first meeting that each board member had as much power as the other and that meant an eighth grader had as much power as a twelfth grader. So far this seems to be working out smoothly.

At first, the eighth and ninth graders did not have much to say. They sat back and let the older kids make all the decisions. I had to keep reminding them that they were all equal as far as voting privileges and if they did not speak up and fight for themselves, it was their fault.

The PERRYTON-OCHILTREE COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS had voted to give the PERRYTON-STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS five hundred dollars as start up money. This money was deposited in a checking account at one of our local banks. This checking account is used to pay the informants as well as other expenses the program may have. Each of the officers of the board are on the signature card at the bank. The account is set up so it takes the signature of two of these officers to make the check valid. The checks that are written for rewards are made out to the bank. The cash is given to the counselor who then pays the informant in cash. The checks are necessary to keep track of the money.

At the first meeting of the PERRYTON STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS we elected officers, a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and a treasure. The checking account was turned over to the treasure. I told them they needed to be thinking about a fund raiser. I told them about the five hundred dollar donation, but I also told them that it would not last long when we started getting tips.

At the first board meeting we focused on recovering a stolen saxophone. This was our first attempt at solving a crime using the PERRYTON STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS. We put up several posters around the different school campuses, and an announcement was made over the school intercom.

Within a couple of hours we knew who took the stolen saxophone. A couple of days later two other students from another campus gave information about the stolen instrument and told us about some more property the student had stolen. This saxophone, valued at \$1,200, and a case of insulated cups valued at \$250 was recovered.

It made me very proud to know that all the hard work was already paying off. One of the first things I did was contact the news media to inform them that the PERRYTON STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS had solved their first case.

We are lucky to have excellent relations with our news media. On my PERRYTON-OCHILTREE COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS board I have a representative from our local newspaper and one from our local radio station. This really helps when you are seeking publicity.

B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

When picking a board you would want to have a wide variety of people on your board. On my board for the PERRYTON-OCHILTREE CRIME STOPPERS, I have attorneys, farmers, bankers, housewives, real estate salesman, school teachers, police officers and people from the newspaper and radio station. It seems to be a pretty good mixture of the public from my community.

On my student board I have students from the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades as well as advisory board members which consist of the counselor from each of the schools and the assistant principal from the Junior High School and the High School.

Once the board is established and you start having meetings you need to adopt a set of by-laws. A good set of by-laws will help to avoid a lot of confusion. These by-laws may

be adopted from another agency and adapted to fit the needs of your board.

The board of directors have a very important role in the CRIME STOPPERS program. Among these duties are to set policy, which creates and controls the program, raise funds to pay rewards and cover administrative cost, determine the amount and method of reward payments and act as trustee of funds contributed by citizens, businesses, and service groups. One of the members, generally the treasure, is designated to make the reward payments. There is a police officer on the board to act as a Police Coordinator. This coordinator is responsible for the day to day operations of the program and also serves as liaison between the local law enforcement agency, the board of directors and the news media. Other law enforcement officers may be assigned to the program to assist the coordinator.

C. HOW TO FUND A PROGRAM

One thing you will need is money. If you do not have money you will not be able to pay the rewards as the tips start coming in. Do not worry, the tips will start coming in as soon as you announce the program and show the public how it works. Make sure they know that it is a completely anonymous program and no one will ever know who the person was that gave the information.

There are many businesses in our communities that give to non-profit organizations. Most of the financial institutions are very generous in giving a helping hand to get you started. In addition, I have found that many other businesses are willing to donate fifty or one hundred dollars if you will just ask them. It does not hurt to ask and it is a lot harder to say no if there is a board member standing there asking for the donation rather than them receiving a letter in the mail.

It is suggested that one of the first items of business for the board is to start thinking about a fund raiser. I am very fortunate to have a hard working vice chairman who is in charge of our annual fund raiser.

We have an annual golf tournament. We advertise the golf tournament several months in advance. Our first tournament offered a \$25,000 cash prize for a hole-in-one on a certain hole as well as other cash prizes. This year was our second annual hole-in-one golf tournament and we offered a \$40,000 cash prize for a hole-in-one.

Of course there is no way we could pay a \$25,000 cash prize the first year or a \$40,000 cash prize the second year. We had insurance that we thought was very cost effective. The first year it cost us \$600 for the \$25,000 worth of insurance. The second year it cost us \$1,000 for the \$40,000 worth of insurance. The insurance company states that we had to have a hole that was a certain number of yards long and it had to be monitored by at least two board members at all times. The insurance was good for each and every player that would make a hole-in-one on that hole. We have not had a person make a hole-in-one but if they did it would not cost us any more money, it would just help advertise the tournament for next year.

This one day golf tournament brings in between three and four thousand dollars profit each year. All the board members get together and help in the one day event. It not only helps us out financially, but it brings the board closer. It is a

relaxed atmosphere and we are not crammed into a meeting room. We can mingle and get to know each a little better.

Once a program gets to rolling and gets on its feet it can become certified by meeting certain qualifications of the STATE CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL. Some of these requirements are monthly meetings, reports that are sent to the State CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL as well as the CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, and an annual audit along with many more requirements.

A certified program becomes eligible for money that is collected by the probation departments in each district. Each time a suspect is put on probation by the courts he or she is ordered to pay a one time payment of fifty dollars to the local CRIME STOPPERS program. The PERRYTON-OCHILTREE COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS program is receiving over three hundred dollars a month from the probation department and that amount is increasing each month. If the program is not certified it is not eligible for this money. It is really worth the extra effort!

In addition to the one time fifty dollar payment made to CRIMES STOPPERS occasionally we will have a suspect, that was arrested due to a CRIME STOPPERS tip, pay back the amount of the reward that was paid to catch him. An example would be;

CRIME STOPPERS received a tip about a burglar who was responsible for four burglaries. This tip lead to the arrest and conviction of the suspect. The suspect was found guilty, and placed on probation. He had to pay the one time \$50 payment to the local CRIME STOPPERS program but he also had to pay CRIME STOPPERS back the \$600 reward money that was paid to the informant who provided the information that lead to his arrest.

Each state has its own individual CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM as well as the individual localized programs. The STATE CRIME STOPPERS program has control over the individual programs. The state program provides training, and answers any questions that may come up.

IV. EFFECTS OF THE CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAMS

A. LEGAL ASPECTS

The foremost undisputed legal advisory for the CRIME STOPPERS programs is Judge Richard W. Carter. Judge Carter, of Arlington, Texas, (population. 270,000), has been active in CRIME STOPPERS since 1981. Judge Carter has served as a member of the Board of Directors, Secretary and General Counsel of CRIME STOPPERS, International, Inc., and Chairman of the TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL. He has written numerous articles on CRIME STOPPERS legal issues including being author/editor of Chapter Viii (CRIME STOPPERS AND THE LAW) of the CRIME STOPPERS manual and the "CRIME STOPPERS and the LAW" column of THE CALLER. He has lectured to CRIME STOPPERS in many states. Mr. Carter has previously served in the legal capacity of a private attorney, Hunt County Attorney, Waco Police Legal Advisor, Chairman of the Legal Officers Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and faculty member of Baylor University. Mr. Carter presided over the Arlington Municipal Court 1983-1992. A graduate of Texas Tech University School of Law, he is licensed to practice before all courts in State of Texas, the United States Court of Appeals (5th and 11th Circuits), and the United States Supreme Court. Richard Carter, since leaving the bench, has continued to serve as General Counsel for

CRIME STOPPERS, International, Inc. He has also authored a new book entitled COURT SECURITY FOR JUDGES, BAILIFFS AND OTHER COURT PERSONNEL.²³

In Judge Carter's book THE CRIME STOPPERS CASE DIGEST he list over 250 CRIME STOPPERS court decisions. Most of them are from appellate courts, but a few are significant trial court orders or pending case data. An index of cases gives the Digest user the ability to locate cases either by jurisdiction or by topic. Each case is on a separate loose leaf page for easy access and removal. On each sheet is the name of the case, the official citation indicating where the case can be found, any important facts or quotations from the case, space for notes and comments of the user, and one or more one-line topic indicators at the bottom of each page.

The following topics are considered in the digest:

- Attorney General Opinions
- Automobile Cases
- Awards of Money
- Change of Venue
- Civil Suits
- Complimentary Of CRIME STOPPERS
- Conflicts and Ethics
- Consent
- Constitutionality
- Corroboration
- Critical Remarks
- Exigent Circumstances
- Forfeitures
- Good Faith
- Hearsay
- Identification Of Suspect

Topics
Lost Cases
Payment To Witnesses
Police Agents
Privacy, Invasion Of
Protection Of Informant And CRIME STOPPERS Records
Speedy Trial
Stopped Crime In Progress
Warrants
Warrantless Arrest And Seizures²⁴

There have been many "spin offs" of the CRIME STOPPERS programs and there have several challenges of the legality of these type of programs. Examples of such challenges are shown below.

PEOPLE v Callen, 194 Cal. App. 3rd 558, 239 Cal. Rpt. 584
(Cal. App. 1987)

Kathryn Ann Callen's conviction for the purse snatching from an 84-year-old woman in Stockton, California was upheld upon appeal. A CRIME STOPPERS tip led to the identification of the defendant in a photo line up. The defendant argued that the police have a duty to preserve evidence relating to the identity of witnesses who inform on the CRIME STOPPERS hot line. He also argued that the police may not operate a program designed to conceal the identity of an eye-witness informants, and that the inability of the police to identify the informant deprived her of a substantial right. As shown in the court decision below the appellate court disagreed.

"We are unaware of any decision holding that the police have an affirmative obligation to determine the identity of an informant who provides information.

"We are satisfied the benefits of a CRIME STOPPERS-type program-citizen involvement in reporting crime and criminals-far out weigh any speculative benefits to the defense arising from imposing a duty on law enforcement to gather and preserve evidence of the identity of informants who wish to remain anonymous.

"...that law enforcement officials should not be permitted to act upon anonymous information, however that information is received, unless the identity of the informant can somehow be uncovered, a proposition we

find palpably unacceptable. There is no question but that anonymous information often provides a substantial part of the initial investigator data relied upon by law enforcement agencies. A CRIME STOPPERS-type program does no more than institutionalize the method by which anonymous information may be fed into the investigation pipeline. Were the defendant able to show that CRIME STOPPERS information-as opposed to information received anonymously through other means-somehow results in a substantial number of innocent people being subjected to criminal inquiry, defendant might have legitimate argument. She makes no such claim. To the contrary, the record reveals nothing more than that CRIME STOPPERS is a conduit through which information is funneled to police."²⁵

People v Brown, 151 Ill. App. 3d 353, 502 N.E. 2d 850 (Ill. App. 2nd Dist. 1986)

In case of first impressions, the trial judge dismissed charges against a defendant because the CRIME STOPPERS program violated the constitutional rights of the accused.

The court stated: "I find that the state has, through a general policy of not identifying callers, even if the caller wishes to identify themselves, violated the constitutional rights and protection of this particular defendant, and has violated the provisions of Brady v Maryland, and has deprived the defendant of his due process rights under the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the United States."

The theory was that if CRIME STOPPERS program did not seek or want to know the identity of informants, then possible witnesses, having exculpatory information favorable to the accused, could not be located or were tantamount to being concealed by the state.

Upon appeal, the trial judge's order of dismissal was reversed in a unanimous decision of the three-judge-court. The appellate court found that the state did not have within its possession or control that name of the anonymous informant, and that it was mere speculation, at best, that the informant had anything that would be favorable to the defendant. In strong language, the court said: "Programs such as CRIME STOPPERS have been praised as a useful police investigation tool...We have not found a single case, however, in which a reviewing court either criticized a program where citizens were encouraged to give information concerning crimes

anonymously or found such a program to conflict with a defendant's right to due process. The rationale and holding of the trial judge below contradicts the general public interest in effective law enforcement by encouraging citizens to communicate their knowledge of the commission of crimes to law enforcement officials. The use of a CRIME STOPPERS program is a legitimate investigative tool of law enforcement which may provide information leading to evidence in a crime. We fail to perceive any infringement on an accused's constitutional rights under the CRIME STOPPERS program..."

The defendant decided not to appeal the December 31, 1986, decision of the Illinois Court of Appeals.²⁶

Cases such as the ones above are not uncommon but in most cases CRIME STOPPERS has prevailed.

B. STATISTICS FOR THE CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAMS

1. TEXAS STATISTICS

The statistics that are a result of the various CRIME STOPPERS programs are staggering! In Texas alone as of 9-01-94 The following statistics have been reported:

SUSPECTS ARRESTED.....	61,405
CASES CLEARED.....	81,848
REWARDS PAID.....	\$9,243,851
PROPERTY RECOVERED.....	.\$135,927,858
NARCOTICS RECOVERED.....	\$329,052,746
FORFEITURES/RESTITUTIONS... ..	\$6,088,456 ²⁷

These figures are just from the state of Texas!

The first CRIME STOPPERS program in Texas was started in El Paso in September 1978. There are currently at least 218 CRIME STOPPERS program operating in Texas alone. Data was collected on the number of calls received to all TEXAS CRIME STOPPER programs in 1993. There were 10,851 calls made to TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS through the month of June, 1993.

Based on an eight hour work day Texas CRIME STOPPERS programs are solving one crime every 25 minutes and are

are recovering \$14,144.00 in stolen property and illegal narcotics every hour of operation.

Based on a twenty four hour day Texas CRIME STOPPERS are solving one crime every hour and 16 minutes and recovering \$4,715.00 in stolen property and illegal narcotics every hour.

The above statistics are based on statistical data provided by programs since the inception of the first CRIME STOPPERS program in Texas (El Paso 1978).

In March, 1993 the Governor's Fugitive Squad was formed and has featured 14 fugitives in three separate "Texas ten most wanted" posters. The squad has been directly responsible for the apprehension of 8 of the 14 featured. A 9th was apprehended by local police. The squad has also cleared or apprehended 378 additional violent parole absconders who were candidates for the "Texas Ten Most Wanted" feature. To date, TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS has paid only \$3,000 in rewards for the tips leading to the apprehension of these fugitives.²⁸

2. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

The following statistics were provided by the Crime Stoppers International. These are the results of all the CRIME STOPPERS currently in operation. There were 649 programs that responded to provide these statistics. As of August 1, 1994 there were:

CASES CLEARED.....	474,772
DOLLARS RECOVERED.....	\$2,922,480,646
AVERAGE DOLLARS RECOVERED PER CASE CLEARED..	6,156
DEFENDANTS TRIED.....	95,961
DEFENDANTS CONVICTED.....	92,911
RATE OF CONVICTION.....	97%
REWARDS PAID.....	\$35,503,919
AVERAGE REWARD PAID PER CASE CLEARED.....	\$75
AVERAGE DOLLAR AMOUNT RECOVERED PER \$1 PAID....	\$82 ²⁹

V.

CONCLUSION

In this paper I have shown the steps necessary to start a CRIME STOPPERS program. I have shown how I assumed a program that had been going for about three years and how I started a new program. If you are thinking about starting a program I suggest you contact an agency that currently has a program and see what changes, if any, there may be since this paper was written. I would also suggest you look at a copy of the TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES. There are many changes being made even as I write. Management is changing, and as you probably know nearly every time new management takes over they are going to make some changes. There are many people at the TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL, in Austin, Texas and at CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico that will be more than happy to assist you start a program. TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL can be reached at 1-800-252-TIPS or at P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711. CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL can be reached at 1-800-245-0009 or at 1113 Rhode Island NE, Suite A Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110. It has been my experience that everyone involved in CRIME STOPPERS is happy to lend a helping hand when asked.

VI.

ENDNOTES

1. TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL OPERATIONS GUIDELINES, Criminal Justice Division, (08-02-94), 1.
2. Ibid, 1.
3. Ibid, 2.
4. CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, The Caller: Program Statistics, (August/September 1994), 26.
5. Ibid, 24.
6. CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, THE CALLER: STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS, (February/March 1994), 6
7. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 1991.
8. Kids County Data Book, 1993.
9. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1991.
10. Bureau of Justice, 1990.
11. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 1993.
12. University of Michigan's 1992 High School Senior Survey on Drug Abuse.
13. Kids Count Data Book, 1993.
14. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1991.
15. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992.
16. Ibid.
17. Center to Prevent handgun Violence, 1990.
18. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992.
19. National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, 1993.
20. Ibid.
21. National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 1992.

22. CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, THE CALLER: STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS, (February/March 1994) 6.
23. Richard W. Carter's, The CRIME STOPPERS CASE DIGEST, 1992.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid, 47.
26. Ibid, 64.
27. Statistics provided by TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS ADVISORY COUNCIL. (09-01-94)
28. Ibid. (09-07-94)
29. CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL, THE CALLER: Statistics, (August/September 1994) 26.

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