



CRIME STOPPERS of CENTRAL INDIANA

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August 4, 2009

Ralf Schwoerer
Crimestoppersonline.com
140 West 29th Street #341
Pueblo, Colorado 81008

Mr. Schwoerer,

This letter is to follow up on our telephone conversation from August 3rd, 2009. As program Director of Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana I insist that you remove any reference to our program from your website crimestoppersonline.com and no longer solicit the public to take crime tips on our behalf.

Crime Stoppers programs promise anonymity to the public we serve and when you as an unknown third party solicit to take tips on our behalf tipsters may unwittingly provide highly sensitive information to you when they believe they are communicating with our program. If we fail to address this issue I believe we are negligent in doing everything we can to protect the public trust our Crime Stoppers program has developed over the past 25 years.

I also find that advertising your site as Crime Stoppers is misleading and improper. To my knowledge you do not have a 501(c)3 status with the IRS, are not a nonprofit organization, and do not have a board of directors overseeing the handling of the tips submitted - just a few of the requirements to be a legitimate Crime Stoppers organization. Additionally, I found the solicitation for donations to support your site improper since you are not a charity.

Furthermore, our program has invested heavily in anonymous tip taking technologies that enable two-way dialogues with tipsters. While you may believe you are doing favor advertising the ability for people to leave tips at your site you are in fact hurting our mission. First, since we are unable to engage in two-way dialogue we are unable to get the important details that may be lacking in the initial tip thus we may not give the investigators all the information possible. Secondly, since the tipsters are not communicating with our program directly, you are depriving tipsters of potentially receiving a cash reward if the information leads to a felony arrest in our community.

Thank you for removing any reference of our program from your web site.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kern
Program Director

Cc: Crime Stoppers USA Board & Membership
Richard Carter, Legal Advisor CSUSA