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To: crimestopperslaw@aol.com
Subject: Sad Sad State of Affairs
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Judge Carter,

I just had the most humorous yet disturbing conversation with a "tipster...sort of." The conversation went something like this:

Me: Crime Stoppers Tipline.

Tipster: Yeah, I need to report a crime but I need to know if I'm gonna get paid.

Me: Well, I won't know if you can get paid unless the information you tell me leads to an arrest and indictment.

Tipster: Oh, you guys already arrested the people involved and my truck was impounded and I need the money to get it out.

Me: Were you involved with the crime?

Tipster: No, but if you send a detective over to my house I can take them to the guys that were.

Me: The only way we can do that is if you sign a waiver of anonymity, because there is no way we can protect your identity if we send someone to your house.

Tipster: That's okay, I just want to clear my truck from this crime because I wasn't involved.

Me: If you weren't involved, there is nothing to fear, but we can't change the fact that your truck was used in a crime if that was the case.

Tipster: Well it wasn't, I just rented it to the guys that committed the crime.

Me: Rented?

Tipster: Yeah, you know...for drugs. I'm not going to lie to you. I was an addict and I'm trying to get clean.

Me: If you rented your truck for drugs and the guys you "rented" it to were arrested while trying to supply you with drugs you are not eligible for a reward unless you are reporting that they committed some other crime that you were not involved in.

Tipster: Why not, I wasn't there when they were arrested.

Me: Because you were engaging in an illegal activity. No one involved in a crime can be eligible for a reward related to that crime.

Tipster: What crime was I involved in?

Me: If you expected someone to bring you illegal drugs for the use of your vehicle, you were participating in an illegal activity.

Tipster: Oh, okay, thanks (click)

Sometimes you have to wonder and other times you just laugh because it is the only way to get through the day.

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