

From: crimestopperslaw@aol.com
To: walt@smithcpallc.com
Cc: ecloyd@sbcglobal.net; tomkern@crimetips.org

Subject: Re: CS

Date: Sat, 28 Jun 2008 6:38 pm

While it may be ostensibly "legal", if the Bylaws and Charter of the corporation allow for such donations or expenditures, it is definitely NOT within the purposes or intent of Crime Stoppers when Greg MacAleese created "Crime Stoppers" for funds to be spent on anything other than the payment of rewards and the administrative costs of operating the anonymous cash reward program. Crime Stoppers was never intended to be a "foundation", grant agency, or the like.

Expenditures on law enforcement equipment, while it may be well-intended, is not appropriate.

The primary problem with such expenditures, among others, are:

1. If the funds were donated to Crime Stoppers by donors who believed the gift was going to be used to pay Crime Stoppers rewards or support the operations costs, then such re-gifting to law enforcement agencies and others is a fundamental violation of "donor intent". Such disrespect is frowned upon, and in some cases has resulted in claims and litigation by donors. If the donor had wanted to give money to the law enforcement agency, they would have done so. They gave the money to Crime Stoppers. In some jurisdictions, this can even rise to a criminal law violation for deceptive advertising and trade practices.
2. If people think that Crime Stoppers has so much money that it is giving it away, would-be donors will not give to Crime Stoppers.
3. Such a mindset can cause a Crime Stoppers organization to actually believe that they are operating at 100% and that there is nothing better that they could do with their excess funds. In 99% of the cases, there is MUCH more that the Crime Stoppers organization could do to improve their program and its success.
4. Giving back to the government will often create a dependency that costs the law enforcement department in the future when funding is cut because of the expectation that the Crime Stoppers gifts will continue.
5. Other charities who hear about the Crime Stoppers money giveaway will make requests to Crime Stoppers for their worthwhile causes. There is simply not enough money to share with them all, but the one's you turn down will come away with negative feelings towards Crime Stoppers.
6. Additionally, the precious time of your volunteers who serve on the Crime Stoppers board of directors may find that the length of the meetings increases due to the reading and discussion and voting upon requests for Crime Stoppers dollars (or Crime Stoppers board business does not get taken care of due to the time running out).

I do encourage your program to become active and consider membership in Crime Stoppers USA. Without such membership, you are not truly getting the information and leading edge ideas that all programs need....not entitled to free legal assistance (I am answering this only because I fear that your program's decision to stray from the path of what Greg MacAleese created may endanger your program and others--You are currently ineligible for legal assistance from CSUSA); not entitled to greatly reduced liability insurance premiums; etc.

I wish you well.

Sincerely,

Judge Richard W. Carter (Ret.)
Director of Legal Services
Crime Stoppers of the United States of America, Inc.
CrimeStoppersLaw@aol.com
Legal Line (817) 492-8175
Cellular (817) 343-5496

COPY: Crime Stoppers Founder GREG MacALEESE

-----Original Message-----

From: Walt Smith <walt@smithcpallc.com>
To: 'Walt Smith' <walt@smithcpallc.com>; 4info@crimestopusa.com
Sent: Fri, 27 Jun 2008 2:37 pm
Subject: RE: CS

Help, please.

Thanks.

From: Walt Smith [<mailto:walt@smithcpallc.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2008 10:34 AM
To: 4info@crimestopusa.com
Subject: CS

We have a very successful CS unit and money in the bank.

A couple of questions:

1. Are there any restrictions on use of our money as long as we use it to detect, prevent, and fight crime?

Is there any reason why we cannot use funds to provide equipment (crime fighting tools such as night-vision goggles) for SWAT Team?

We do get funds specifically designated for Quick 50 and we segregate those funds.

2. What are dues for your organization? At one time, we belonged, but we got dropped, I think, when there was some sort of reorganization a couple of years ago.

Thanks.

Sauk County Crime Stoppers.

Walt, Pres.

To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code.

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