

A FEW SIMPLE WAYS....

To Keep Your *Crime Stoppers*
Program Out of Trouble

By Judge Richard W. Carter (Ret.)

Corporate Filings

- Timely file reports and updates to the State agency overseeing non-profit corporations
- Timely file tax returns and pay any taxes due
- Periodically verify that the corporation is in “good standing”

Comply with the Bylaws

- Proper notice of meetings
- No meetings without a quorum
- Conduct elections/appointments per Bylaws
- Record and maintain appropriate Minutes
- Periodically review Bylaws, and amend as needed per procedures in Bylaws

Do Not Put 501 (c) (3) at Risk

- Do Not Share Tax-Exemption with other persons or entities
- Have “conflict of interest statement” for each member of the board of directors
- Avoid self-dealing and even the appearance of such, i.e. the corporation should not do business with its officers & directors

Fundraising

- Fundraising is a continuing responsibility of the board of directors
- All fundraising initiatives must comply with all applicable laws
- Without sufficient funding, Crime Stoppers cannot pay its legal obligations
- Inability to pay rewards = “Game Over”

EXPENDITURES

- Must be approved by favorable vote pursuant to Bylaws
- Must be lawful and within scope of charitable purpose of the organization
- Must respect “donor intent”, i.e. funds raised must be spent in accordance with intent of donor (for rewards or operational expenses of Crime Stoppers)

Avoid Large or Supplemental Rewards

- Drives up the cost of doing business
- Reflects discrimination and disrespect
- Jeopardizes case solution and prosecution
- Can hurt fundraising efforts by giving perception of wasting \$ or having plenty \$
- Laundering non-gov & non-501 (c)(3) funds through Crime Stoppers is criminal

Protect Informants

- Practice safe tip-taking and records management
- Move to quash subpoenas and motions to compel production of Crime Stoppers records
- Ask that a case be dismissed rather than allow an informant's identity to be involuntarily disclosed

No Crimes or Scandals

- Require two (2) signatures on checks
- Conduct financial reviews & obtain independent audits at least every 2 years
- Control damage with news releases to keep the public's confidence and trust
- Ask for pre-trial resignations of board members who are arrested and charged
- No perjury or illegal destruction of evidence

Rodney King:

“Can’t We All Just Get Along?”

- Use S.O.P.s and Corporate Resolutions
- Use “Robert’s Rules” carefully
- Use M.O.U.s to clearly outline the role of the board, law enforcement, & media partners
- Use a mediator, if necessary, to resolve differences of opinion & personalities
- Use common sense: It Ain’t About You

OTHER IDEAS & GUIDELINES

- [Group Discussion & Comments]

Questions & Answers

- Any questions about items covered in this training module?
- Any comments about items covered in this training module?
- Any questions or comments about items NOT covered in this training module?

[Please: 1 ? or Comment per person,
unless no others waiting their turn to ask
or comment]

CONCLUSION

- *Crime Stoppers* is only as good as the people involved in Crime Stoppers
- *Crime Stoppers* is in its 42nd year, but its continued operation and success cannot be taken for granted
- *Crime Stoppers* is larger than any one person or group of persons and personal agendas and excessive ego are not wanted.