

CRIME STOPPERS 101

CRIME STOPPERS IS “LEGAL”

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Director of Legal Services
Crime Stoppers of the United States of
America, Inc.**

Presenter
Judge Richard W. Carter (Ret.)



Speaker's Biography

- Licensed attorney in Texas since 1973, also admitted to practice before all federal district courts in Texas, 5th & 11th U.S. Courts of Appeal, and U.S. Supreme Court.
- Former Chair of Legal Officers Section of *International Association of Chiefs of Police* (IACP); Life Member of National Sheriff's Association.
- Former Hunt County Attorney, former Arlington Municipal Court Judge; former Chair, Municipal Judges Section SBOT.
- Former Asst. General Counsel & Staff Attorney for *Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas* (C.L.E.A.T.).
- Currently Director of Legal Services for Crime Stoppers of the United States of America, Inc. (CSUSA).
- President & Co-Founder: *International Court Security Assn.*
- Author of *Court Security in the New Millennium: A Time for Change* (Amazon books).

Introduction

- Many years ago, as Waco Police Legal Advisor, my Chief gave me an assignment:
 - Is “Crime Stoppers” legal?
 - Is “Crime Stoppers” something that our department needs to involve itself with as we would be working with private citizens and the news media?

Is Crime Stoppers “Legal”?

Crime Stoppers lawfully seeks information and forwards information to law enforcement agencies.

Crime Stoppers offers and pays rewards pursuant to the law of contracts

It's "Legal"

Crime Stoppers offers rewards in a manner that does not defame or libel anyone.

Crime Stoppers does not file charges or prosecute cases.

Crime Stoppers does not pay witnesses for their testimony.

It's "Legal"

Crime Stoppers does not deny criminal defendants the "right of confrontation"

Crime Stoppers complies with all federal laws pertaining to banking and tax laws without breaching the contractual promise of "anonymity"

It's "Legal"

Crime Stoppers is not a governmental body subject to Sunshine Laws requiring public access to meetings or information

Crime Stoppers solicits "inculpatory" information, not "exculpatory" information discoverable under *Brady v. Maryland*. 373 U.S. 83 (1963)

Why Get Involved in Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers is truly a way for law enforcement to engage in “community policing”

Crime Stoppers can provide funds for paying cash rewards and avoiding using tax dollars

Why Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers tips can save hundreds if not thousands of hours of work by law enforcement officers

Crime Stoppers provides an system for tipsters to safely transmit tips and to receive a reward anonymously

Why Crime Stoppers?

It is better to let criminals know that a Crime Stoppers system is in place to identify and apprehend them if they commit a crime in the community

Background information accompanying tips gives a heads-up to those who might learn crime prevention tips

Why Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers gives a degree of comfort to crime victims and their families, knowing that suspects can be brought to justice and that it is unnecessary to expend family or personal funds to do so.

By having reasonable or uniform reward ranges, Crime Stoppers shows that ALL lives matter.

Conclusions

1. Crime Stoppers is “Legal”

2. Law enforcement, citizen board members, and the news media SHOULD become actively and enthusiastically involved in Crime Stoppers.

End of Presentation

- Thank you for your attendance and participation.
- Additional questions or requests for information can be emailed to:
CrimeStoppersLaw@aol.com