





# Crime Stoppers ABC's (101)

- DET. (RET.) KEVIN BOEHM, GREATER KC CRIME STOPPERS TIPS HOTLINE, SCHOLASTIC CRIME STOPPERS COORDINATOR (SEPT. 3, 2022) FORMER LE COORDINATOR
- K. SCOTT ABRAMS, CPA, CGMA CSUSA PAST CHAIR, WISCONSIN CRIME STOPPERS, CRIME STOPPERS INT'L, PARAGON SOLUTIONS, FINANCIAL WIZARD

## What About You?!?

1<sup>st</sup> Time attendees? (typically, 1/3)



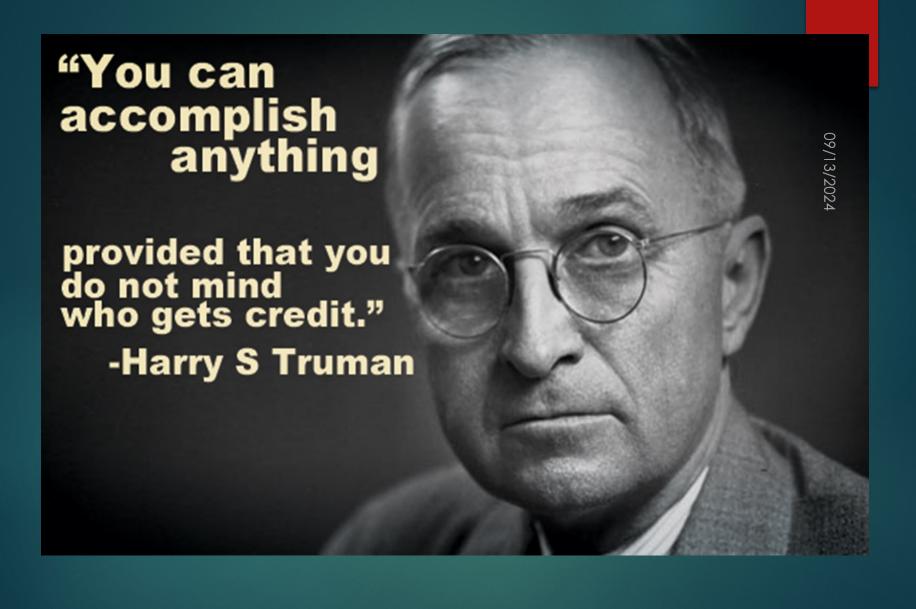
Coordinators, board members, executive directors, other?



States and international countries represented?



Jurisdictional Population: 0 – 250,000K, 250,000 – 1 million, 1 million plus



#### Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission Board and Directors

Marketing and Event
Director
Tami Holthus

Program Specialist Andrew Kang



President Rick Armstrong

Vice-President
Barry Mayer

Professional Assistant Olivia Blair



#### **ADVISORY BOARD**

Program Director Christina Ludwig

Scholastic Crime Stoppers
Program Coordinator
Kevin Boehm

Assistant Coordinator Mike West Lea Voss



Metropolitan Community Service Program

#### **ADVISORY BOARD**

Program Director Tracy Kirksey

Adopt A Street
Program Director
Richard Bassett

Worksite Coordinator /
Caseworker
Rachel Fisher
Tim Maudlin
Ashley VanHouten



#### **ADVISORY BOARD**

Program Director Tracy Kirksey

Lead Resource Specialist /
Training Facilitator
Brittany Peterson

Resource Specialist Marcus Dawn Rodney Harris

Services Coordinator Joanie Saltzman



#### **ADVISORY BOARD**

Program Director Jan Zimmerman

## KC Crime Commission

## Why this course?



FOUNDATION FOR CONFERENCE



PROVIDES "TALKING
POINTS" TO ALL CS
REPRESENTATIVES
(LE,
COORDINATORS,
BOARD MEMBERS,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTORS ETC.)



"BIG PICTURE"

"BIG PICTURE"

VIEW OF

OPERATING A

LEGITIMATE CS

PROGRAM



COORDINATOR, FINANCIAL AND LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

## objectives

Understand basic History of Crime Stoppers ability to explain the "Crime Stoppers Concept"

understand the Role of Board of Directors

understand the Role of the Coordinator

understand the Role of the Media

why "Tip Processing" (sanitizing) is so important

how to Protect Crime Stoppers

## History

- September 8, 1976
- ► Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Robbery/homicide Michael Carmen (July 1976)
- Det. Greg Macaleese
- Crime of the week
- 3 arrested within 72 hours case was 4 months old
- Caller ID'ed the car "didn't want to get involved"



# Essential Elements of Crime Stoppers Concept

### ► WHY CRIME STOPPERS?

- ► FEAR OF REPRISAL
- NAN ATTITUDE OF APATHY
- ► RELUCTANCE TO GET INVOLVED
  - "SNITCHES GET STITCHES"

## Know The Competition

Someone Knows Something. We are not alone.....

**Local law enforcement -** Social Media; "anonymous" report by leaving a message or e-mail us. Usually, no offer of rewards

**National Crime Tips -** Associated with Police/Fire Magazine. Reward based on arrest & conviction

**Schools -** Anonymous using "Forms" for tips that often ask for your name, phone number, e-mail. May have phone lines into School offices. Sprigeo

**Tip 411/Nixle -** Tips go directly to subscriber, usually law enforcement agency with no review of tip info.

**WeTip -** Not-for-profit, takes crime tips but moving toward services for companies.

**Sandy Hook Promise –** Creating an entire program for schools to include tipping programs. (CS Tips by Response Angel)

## Record Keeping

#### Disclaimer

- The anonymous information contained in this TIP DOES NOT constitute rea sonable suspicion or probable cause for arrest and is the exclusive property of the Greater Ka nsas City Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline. This information is NOT to be included in any investigative file.
- This form is the exclusive property of Crime Stoppers of \_\_\_\_\_. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this document is STRICTLY prohibited. DO NOT include this form in any investigative file.
- Corporate vs. Public Record (Check with Your State)
  - Corporate: Corporate records are such records that are required by a corporation to show that it is functioning according to the rules of the Internal Revenue Service. Corporate records usually have a corporate record book which includes all the required documents. Corporate records can also be kept online or in a file cabinet. (US Legal, Inc.)
  - Public: Public records are documents or pieces of information that are not considered confidential and generally pertain to the conduct of government. Reference your specific state "Sunshine Law" procedure. (Wikipedia)

## Record Keeping (Cont.)

#### Ownership: A) Crime Stoppers

- ▶ B) Law Enforcement
- ▶ C) Prosecutor
- D) Defense Attorney
- ▶ E) All the Above

#### ► Corporate vs. Public:

- State to State Variance
- Release and Retention defined by State and/or Federal statute
- Could be both who took the tip (me vs. staff), where is the tip stored, was tip included in case file, do state specific protections exist?

## Inculpatory vs. Exculpatory

Inculpatory

 Inculpatory means causing blame to be imputed to; to incriminate. For example, inculpatory statement is a statement which attribute liability on the person making such statement. It incriminates or places guilt or responsibility on someone. (US Legal, Inc.) 98%

Exculpatory

 Exculpatory evidence is evidence favorable to the defendant in a criminal trial that exonerates or tends to exonerate the defendant of guilt. It is the opposite of inculpatory evidence, which tends to present guilt. (Wikipedia) 2%

## How Crime Stoppers Works? It's what makes us different

Anonymous vs Confidential Tips

## Anonymous vs. Confidential

**Anonymous Tips:** The anonymous informant, however, lacks the advantages of both the professional and the lay informant. By definition, anonymous informants lack a "track record," and they also cannot be presumed to be credible, since police have no means of gauging their possible motives for making false accusations or of holding them accountable for false tips. On their face, such informants would thus appear to have almost no credibility. Yet the Supreme Court has allowed for the use of anonymous informants' tips in substantiating both probable-cause and reasonable-suspicion determinations, in Illinois v. Gates and Alabama v. White, respectively. The Supreme Court held that the combination of the anonymous informant's tip and police corroboration of some of the information were sufficient to make out probable cause.

Confidential Informant: A confidential informant is a person who provides information about criminal activity to law enforcement officers. The identities of these individuals are privileged in order to protect these individuals against retribution from those involved in crime. Statements made by a confidential informant are testimonial in nature, and therefore, may not be offered by the government to establish the guilt of an accused absent an opportunity for the accused to cross-examine the informant. However, evidence that is provided merely by way of background or is offered only to explain how certain events came to pass or why the officers took the actions they did, is not offered for the truth of the matter asserted. [United States v. Warman, 578 F.3d 320 (6th Cir. Ohio 2009)]

## Take a Break

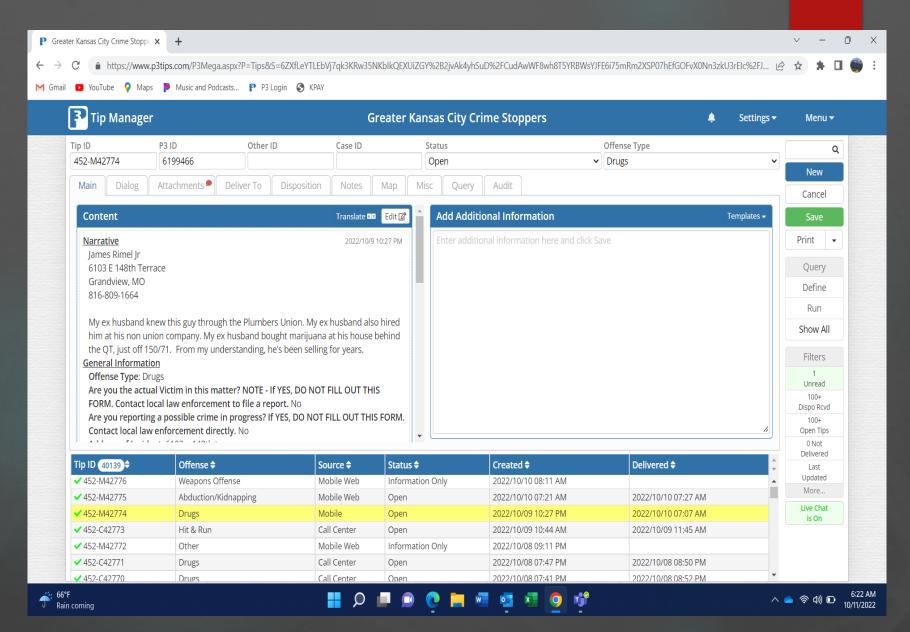


See you in 10 minutes



## Protect Tipsters

- Protect the Tipster from Themselves
  - Reveal to much
  - Try to "sell" you on the information
  - Gender Neutral
  - ▶ Be general when discussing "how" the info. is known
  - Use "they" as opposed to "he" or "she"
  - Edit info. but be careful not to "add" your own commentary
  - Don't accept e-mail or Social Media tips!



## SANITIZATION PRIMER

"John Doe is my ex-husband. I have been **letting him stay at my house** at 123 Main Street since he was released from jail in 2011. I left the property two years ago to live with my **new husband**. He let Jane Doe move in two months ago. When I went to collect the rest of my belongings from the house at 123 Main Street, Ms. Doe told me that she and John are doing meth on a daily basis and showed me the meth she had been holding back from **John**. John was arrested in 2008 for growing marijuana in the shed in the back of the house. I have good reason to believe he is now cooking meth in that shed as I can think of no other way that they could afford to smoke meth everyday. In addition, Ms. Doe was recently arrested with meth and oxycodone. Finally, when I asked John if I could see the house and shed he said the police had already been there following Ms. Doe's arrest. I called to confirm that this morning and was told there have been no deputies called to that address recently. I understand that cooking meth can be very dangerous as explosions can happen and am concerned for my property. I am currently in the process of having them evicted but that may take a few weeks. Thank you for your help.

# SANITIZATION (CONT.)

"John Doe is my ex-husband. I have been letting him stay at my house is living at 123 Main Street since he was released from jail in 2011. Heft the property two years ago to live with my new husband. He let Jane Doe move in two months ago. When I went to collect the rest of my belongings from the house at 123 Main Street, Ms. Doe told me that she and John are doing meth on a daily basis and showed me I have seen the meth she had been holding back from John. John was arrested in 2008 for growing marijuana in the shed in the back of the house. I have good reason to believe he is now cooking meth in that shed as I can think of no other way that they could afford to smoke meth everyday. In addition, Ms. Doe was recently arrested with meth and oxycodone. I Finally, when I asked John if I could see the house and shed he said the police had already been there following Ms. Doe's arrest. I called to confirm that this morning and was told there have been no deputies called to that address recently. I understand that cooking meth can be very dangerous as explosions can happen and am concerned for my property, am currently in the process of having them evicted but that may take a few weeks. Thank you for your help.

"John Doe is living at 123 Main Street since he was released from jail in 2011. John and his wife are doing meth on a daily basis and people have seen the meth. John was arrested in 2008 for growing marijuana in the shed in the back of the house. There is good reason to believe he is now cooking meth in that shed as I can think of no other way that they could afford to smoke meth everyday. In addition, Ms. Doe was recently arrested with meth and oxycodone. Thank you for your help.

Citizen Board

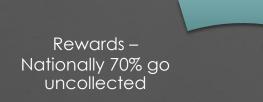
Coordinator

Rewards

Media

Law Enforcement

Anonymity



Apathy





Reprisal/Retribution



Fear

# Crime Stoppers Resolves Problems

#### Crime Stoppers Minimum Standards

Legally incorporated by State

Obtain IRS tax exemption

Establish Operating
Procedures – Best Practices
(Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, MOU's, SOP's)

No law enforcement or elected officials as voting Board

#### Members

- Maintain membership with CSUSA
- Maintain and report program statistics
- Establish reward policy
- •Establish and follow good Financial Policies

#### Training

 Ensure basic training for Coordinator and Board

#### Board:

- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- •D & O Insurance
- Confidentiality Agreement
- Consent to background check
- Attendance/Periodic elections

09/13/2024

## Role of Board of Directors

Creates Policies and Procedures (Coord. Responsibilities, Payout and Retention & Anonymous TIP Taking Procedure)

Provide oversight for Program

Raise Reward funds

Determine Reward amounts

Keep business records: Agenda, Minutes & Sign-In

Promote to media

Develop short and long-term goals – Strategic Plan

09/13/2024

## ► Role of Coordinator

Multi-faceted job with multiple hats.

Responsible for day-to-day operation of program.

Handle tips, follow up, screen and disseminate information.

Liaison between Law Enforcement Agencies and Board of Directors.

Coordinates between Media, Police and Board of Directors.

Maintains record keeping system for the program.

Prepares reports for Law Enforcement Agencies, Board of Directors and Media.

## Role of Law Enforcement

Provide Coordinator & Department contact

Screen Crime Stoppers Tips

Coordinate with Investigators

Maintain files & Case Status

Provide dispositions to tips

Select cases for "Crime or Fugitive of the Week"

Promote program within Department

Member Agencies provide representative to Board of Directors

## Role of Media

- Social Media
  - FaceBook
  - <u>Twitter</u>
- Newspapers
- Television
- Radio
- Cable TV
- Wanted Posters
- Web Site







## Tip Taking

PhoneAnswering Service vs.Local Answering



- Web Tips
- App Tips
- QR Code
- ► Text (KCCS to 738477)



09/13/2024



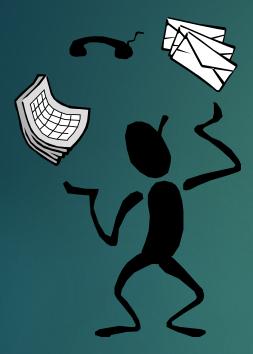
## Rewards



- Determining Reward Amounts
  - Special Rewards
  - **▶** Enhanced Rewards
- Paying Rewards

## 09/13/2024

## Partnerships



- Student Based/Scholastic
- Partnerships -
  - Domestic Violence
  - Animal Abuse
  - ▶ Elder Abuse
  - Auto Theft
  - Construction Site Theft
  - Enhanced Homicide Reward

## Scholastic program

#### PROVEN HISTORY IN KANSAS CITY

- Colorado Springs in 1980
- Brought to KC Metro in 1990's (Lee's Summit School)
- Reintroduced as Text-A-Tip in 2014
- P3 Mobile App introduced in 2016
- QR code introduced in 2022



KCCrimeStoppers.com

#### ANONYMOUS TIPS SAVE LIVES



- Weapons offenses, burglary, stealing and drugs
- 1 potential mass school violence incident averted
- · Prevented 19 suicides
- Over 1,700 scholastic specific tips have been received

SATISTIC ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 2023

#### **OUR MISSION**

As a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we advocate, develop strategies and operate innovative programs that bring people and public safety agencies together to POWER A SAFER, BETTER GREATER KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY

#### "CONFLICT RESOLUTION CAN BEGIN WITH ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION"



#### SCHOLASTIC CRIME STOPPERS

10+ School Districts 105+ Schools Potential 700+ Schools

KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN CRIME COMMISSION 3100 BROADWAY BLVD. SUITE 1234 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64111 816-960-6800 | WWW.KC-CRIME.ORG

#### TREMENDOUS BENEFITS





- FREE membership
- Local administration
- Anonymous
- Potential cash rewards
- 24/7 access
- Available to students, staff and parents

#### P3 APP MAKES REPORTING EASY

#### PROACTIVE/PREVENTION

134% increase in "mass violence threats towards schools" from 2018-19 to 2021-22 (2)



- 93% exhibited "Concerning Behavior"<sup>(2)</sup>
- 81% At least 1 person KNEW<sup>(2)</sup>
- 59% 2 or more KNEW (2)
- The USSS suggests developing strategies to report/encourage reporting by utilizing "Crime Stoppers" and/or anonymous options if necessary (2)

(1) JULY 2003 RC RESIGNAL PLRICON CENTER STUDY TO THE STREET OF THE STREET AND THE STREET SCHOOLS SERVICE MALTIES OF PLOTS AGAINST SCHOOLS

- COMPLY WITH BY-LAWS
- DO NOT PUT YOUR IRS TAX EXEMPTION AT RISK
- MAINTAIN GOOD FINANCIAL STANDING AND HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR REWARDS
- ACT CAREFULLY WHEN DEALING WITH LARGE OR SUPPLEMENTAL REWARDS
- PROTECT YOUR TIPSTERS (SANITIZE) JOB # 1
- NO CRIMES OR SCANDALS
- HANDLE TIPS PROPERLY
- MAINTAIN ACCURATE PROGRAM STATISTICS
- PROVIDE WRITTEN BOARD REPORTS
- CONDUCT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS
- COORDINATE PAYMENT OF REWARDS
- WORK WITH ALL MEDIA
- KNOW YOUR STUFF HAVE YOUR ELEVATOR PRESENTATION READY AT ALL TIMES

## Protecting Crime Stoppers

## CSUSA/GKCCS Statistics

	CSUSA	GKCCS (1982)
Suspects Arrested	781,555	11,604
Cases Cleared	1,131,093	25,707
Homicides		679
Rewards Paid	\$116,278,454	\$1,735,280
Property Recovered	\$1,244,148,378	\$10,587,652.50
Narcotics Seized	\$2,982,179,282	\$29,325,744.67
Total Recovered	\$4,226,327,660	\$39,913,370.17

## Don't Re-invent The Wheel

- Contact Crime Stoppers USA
  - ► 4info@CrimeStoppersUSA.com
  - www.crimestoppersusa.org
- CSUSA Regional Directors
- ► Jdg. (Ret.) Richard Carter, CS USA Legal Advisor <u>crimestopperslaw@aol.com</u> (817) 343-5496
- K. Scott Abrams, CS USA Past President <u>sabrams@crimestoppersusa.com</u> (920) 210-3728
- Kevin Boehm, KC Metro Crime Commission <u>kboehm@kc-crime.org</u> (816) 960-6800