



2-63 CRIME STOPPERS INVESTIGATIONS

Related SOP(s): None

2-63-1 Purpose

The purpose of the Albuquerque Crime Stoppers Unit is to implement a program that prevents and reduces crime. This is accomplished by forming a partnership between the community, law enforcement and the media – offering anonymity and cash rewards to anyone who provides information leading to an arrest, thus making the community a safer place for all who live or work in the region. The Crime Stoppers program encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime by overcoming two key elements that inhibit community involvement; fear and apathy.

2-63-2 Policy

Department policy is to coordinate a Department-wide information system that safeguards the confidentiality of crime stoppers informants.

2-63-3 Rules and Procedures

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A. Separate Indexed Crime Stoppers Tip File

1. Under no circumstances will an operational unit, detective, or officer maintain a separately indexed crime stoppers tip file intended for use as an intelligence repository.

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B. Informant Anonymity

1. Informants to the Crime Stoppers Program are always anonymous.

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C. Crime Stoppers Unit File

D. The Crime Stoppers Unit will be responsible for documenting, disseminating and forwarding information to the appropriate agencies and/or operational units for investigation.

1. The Crime Stoppers Unit files, computer program information, log books, and tip information will be maintained by Crime Stoppers Unit personnel and are the property of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Crime Stoppers Program.
2. The Crime Stoppers Unit will forward copies of tip information forms to the suitable operational unit supervisor for their investigative evaluation. The supervisor will then determine how the information will be utilized using the following guidelines.
 - a. Operational use



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-63

Effective: 03/21/19 Review: 03/21/20 Replaces: 01/13/16

- i. All crime stoppers tip information should be put into operational use within two weeks from the date of receipt by an operational unit.
 - ii. Crime stoppers information forms that have not been put into operational use within the two weeks must be returned to the Crime Stoppers Unit.
- b. Intelligence Use
- i. If a supervisor or another person receiving the information decides the information will not be used operationally, they shall return it to the Crime Stoppers Unit.

3. Citizens who are referred to Crime Stoppers are eligible for a reward and will remain anonymous.

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E. Notification of Tip Use to the Crime Stoppers Unit

Operational units, detectives, or officers receiving crime stoppers information must notify the Crime Stoppers Unit of the dispositions and/or findings of their investigation.

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F. Incorporating Tip Information into Case Files

The crime stoppers tip information form is not to be incorporated into any case file.

G. Law Enforcement Personnel

1. Law Enforcement personnel shall not advise citizens who have already reported a crime to call Crime Stoppers to collect a reward.
2. If Law Enforcement personnel are notified by a citizen that they have information regarding a crime or a fugitive, they can tell the citizen to contact Crime Stoppers with the information.
3. In order for the citizen to be eligible for the Crime Stoppers reward, the citizen must remain anonymous and all information must go through the Crime Stoppers program.
4. Citizens should not be made promises of any possible future rewards by Crime Stoppers for the information.
5. Law Enforcement personnel are not eligible to collect Crime Stoppers Rewards. This section prohibits law enforcement personnel from disseminating information they gathered in the course of their duties to any non-law enforcement personnel, which could result in a Crime Stoppers reward being paid.