

# TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR CRIME STOPPERS

## Purpose

Texas Association for Crime Stoppers, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, exists to promote and encourage member Crime Stoppers programs by providing developmental and operational support and guidance, and serving as an advocate for all Texas Crime Stoppers programs.

## Membership Questions

At TX4CS.com, you'll find answers to many of your questions concerning the Association and membership. Additionally, you may submit your questions to [info@TX4CS.com](mailto:info@TX4CS.com)

## Board of Directors

Jeff Daniels, Chairman

Rick Dorman, Vice-chairman

Estela Quintanilla, Secretary

William Heuberger, Treasurer

Brian Bohn

Susan Rogers

JB Smith



## Welcome

Welcome to Texas Association for Crime Stoppers (TX4CS), an organization that spans the State of Texas creating a network of local Crime Stoppers programs working together to prevent and solve crimes, educate our communities, and ensure the continued success of Crime Stoppers in Texas.

With the recent legislative session behind us, we are excited to move forward and work hand-in-hand with the Texas Crime Stoppers staff, the new Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Division, and all local CS organizations on keeping Texas Crime Stoppers the model for our nation.

The Board of Directors of your association are here to help and want to welcome each member. Spread the word to other CS programs in your area to join; we are stronger when we work together.

*Jeff Daniels*

Chairman, TX4CS  
Coordinator, Odessa Crime Stoppers

*Rick Dorman*

Vice Chairman, TX4CS  
Executive Director, Abilene Crime Stoppers



## Membership Benefits

Membership benefits of the Texas Association for Crime Stoppers for member organizations include (see membership welcome packet for complete list of benefits with examples and restrictions):

- **Legal advice** to Member Organizations from attorney Richard W. Carter, formerly: Arlington Municipal Court Judge, Chair of Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council, General Counsel & Executive Director of Crime Stoppers International; and current Director of Legal Services for Crime Stoppers USA.
- Operational and procedural **advice, guidance, and training** from JB Smith, Executive Director, Crime Stoppers of Lufkin, Inc. and Past Chairman, Texas Crime Stoppers Council.
- **Access** to this quarterly newsletter.
- Access to the "**Members Only**" area of [www.TX4CS.com](http://www.TX4CS.com) with its growing list of resources.
- **Voting rights**; each adult member and member program may vote as a member of the organization and have direct influence over its direction and operation.
- **Legislative influence**; monitoring, reviewing, and suggesting changes to Crime Stoppers-related legislation is a major portion of the Association's work to protect the rights as each Texas Crime Stoppers organization to continue to operate as independent, nonprofit entities. Members will have many opportunities to help guide Texas Crime Stoppers towards a more successful future.

## Did I miss it?

An email, sent by eGrants with the subject line "Notice of Funding Availability from CJD" and received in late December by recipients of the Texas Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund Grant, created confusion for some and panic for others but, in all likelihood, the message does apply to Texas Crime Stoppers organizations. The message was an application deadline notice for several grants managed by the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office but the Texas Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund Grant **WAS NOT** one of the listed grants.

Specifically, the message was a grant application solicitation for funding under; 1) Body Worn Camera Program, 2) Emergency and Long-Term Residential Services for Child Sex Trafficking Victims, 3) General Victim Assistance Program, 4) Justice Assistance Grant Program, 5) Juvenile Justice Grant Program, 6) Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, 7) Specialty Courts Program, 8) Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program, and 9) Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program.

Regarding grant funding, [Texas Crime Stoppers' website](#) states:

*"The Texas Crime Stoppers offers grant funding opportunities for certified crime stoppers organization. Annually, a funding announcement is sent out in December from the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD). These announcements include all of the funding opportunities offered by CJD which includes the Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund. These grant funds can be used for travel/training costs and various operating expenses. All applications deadlines, which are usually around the end of February, can be found in the announcement. Funding preference will be given to organizations hosting an annual Crime Stoppers training conference, annual Campus Crime Stoppers training conference, campus organization and local organizations with campus umbrella or safe school campus programs, projects that support participation in the annual conferences, and projects that support information systems such as answering services, tip management software, phone service, or web hosting services. Applications will be reviewed for quality, capability, and reasonableness of budget. Review criteria may include, but is not limited to the relative financial need of an application based on the annual Probation Fee and Repayment Report and factors such as the applicant's target population, and other potential factors including economic factors."*

January 03, 2018, Reilly Webb, the Acting Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Division, stated his office is working through a technical issue with eGrants. He anticipates a quick resolution of the issue, at which point they will publish the Request for Applications for the Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund. "Everyone will have the traditional full 60 days to submit and certify their application", Reilly said.

# History of Texas Crime Stoppers

Estela Quintanilla  
Secretary, TX4CS

On June 10, 1981, House Bill 1681 created a state program to assist local Crime Stoppers programs to be effective on September 1, 1981. The legislation created the Governor's Crime Stoppers Council within the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office to promote the establishment of local Crime Stoppers organizations throughout the state. Steve Cherry was the Texas Crime Stoppers Council's first Executive Director. In 1984, Crime Stoppers founder Greg MacAleese moved from Albuquerque, New Mexico to become Executive Director of the Texas Crime Stoppers Council in Austin. MacAleese worked with Judge Richard Carter who served as the Chairman of the Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council. The Texas Crime Stoppers Council is comprised of five members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The council is responsible for certifying local programs.

The council consists of five members appointed by the governor to four-year terms. Since its inception, Texas Crime Stoppers has grown from eight certified organizations to nearly 150 certified organizations in operation today, serving in both communities and school campuses throughout the state.

The Governor's Council then set up requirements so that each individual Crime Stoppers program is required to meet specific certification requirements to be eligible to receive funds collected through court assessed fines/fees from criminals who are allowed probation. Requirements for certification are outlined in the Texas Administrative Code (Title 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, Subchapter H, Rule §3.9000). Programs not meeting these requirements may operate but are not eligible to received funds from court ordered fees.

Austin, Texas began its Crime Stoppers program in 1979. In 1983, with 88 Crime Stoppers programs, Texas was unofficially declared "the Crime Stoppers capitol of the United States". A Marshal Crime Stoppers in Austin, Texas was announced as the Crime Stoppers mascot in 1984.

In 1985 Leroy J. Wormley, Jr. of Austin, Texas was named as the 1988 "Crime Stopper of the Year" board member at the Crime Stoppers International Conference. In 1989 the first Texas State Crime Stoppers Conference (the largest in the world with 600 attendees) was announced for April 20th – 21st, featuring Founder Greg MacAleese, CSI General Counsel Judge Richard W. Carter, Cal Millar of the Toronto Star, and others.

In 1990 Texas reported 189 separate Crime Stoppers programs in operation. In 1992 the first exclusively Student Crime Stoppers Seminar is announced for August 3rd & 4th in Amarillo, Texas. Special speakers were Crime Stoppers Founder Greg MacAleese and CSI Legal Counsel Judge Richard W. Carter.

In 1993 the first Campus Crime Stoppers Training Seminar was held in Arlington, Texas on August 2nd & 3rd. David Cobos of the Council and Judge Richard Carter, CSI General Counsel, lead the seminar in conjunction with the Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council and the Grand Prairie Police Academy.

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## *History of Texas Crime Stoppers*

In 1998 Texas Governor George W. Bush issued Executive Order GWB 98-3, which ordered that the Texas Crime Stoppers Council continue its existence until September 1, 1999 and not be discontinued under the Sunset Act. CSI General Counsel Richard Carter and Leroy J. Wormley, Jr. of Austin, Texas had pushed earlier that day for the Governor's Chief of Staff Joe M. Allbaugh to convince the Governor that the Crime Stoppers Council must continue.

The Texas Crime Stoppers Council continues to exist and provides oversight and policy direction to the certified programs in Texas and meets quarterly throughout the state.

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## **Crime Stoppers & the Law**

Judge Richard W. Carter, Retired

Legal Counsel to Texas Association for Crime Stoppers, Inc.

Golden Tambourine Award Recipient, 2017

### **Introduction**

I am pleased to have the honor of advising and assisting the members of Texas Association for Crime Stoppers, Inc. under a legal retainer agreement that began on December 1, 2017. For those whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting, as an introduction I submit the information that follows.

I am a native Texan who has been licensed to practice law in Texas since 1973, and I have been admitted to practice in all four (4) federal districts in Texas, the 5th and 11th circuits of the United States Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of the United States. I have been a criminal defense attorney; Assistant County Attorney; County Attorney; Police Legal Advisor; municipal court judge; police union attorney; and a senior attorney in a law firm. I am an author and a frequent speaker.

I have been involved in Crime Stoppers since recruited by Crime Stoppers founder Greg MacAleese, and have served as Chair for two terms on what was previously known as the Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council. I have also been on the board of directors of the original Crime Stoppers-USA, Inc. where I was a director, secretary, and general counsel. Later I became General Counsel and Executive Director of Crime Stoppers International, Inc. (formerly Crime Stoppers-USA, Inc.). I currently am Director of Legal Services for Crime Stoppers of the United States of America, Inc.



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## *Crime Stoppers & the Law*

Although I never sought recognition or awards, I have been the recipient of awards from the United States House of Representatives; Crime Stoppers International (three President's Awards); Crime Stoppers of the United States of America (President's Award and Lifetime Achievement Award); and most recently an award from the Texas Crime Stoppers Council (Lifetime Achievement Award).

The most important "reward" I have received from my service to Crime Stoppers is having wonderful lifetime friends like many of you I have met in Crime Stoppers; being able to literally travel the world; and knowing that I am helping others to make every community a safer and better place to live. For that, I thank you all.

### **Preferred Procedures**

If you are a representative of a dues-paid member of Texas Association for Crime Stoppers, Inc. and have a legal question or a legal matter pertaining to the operation of your Crime Stoppers organization, you may contact me.

I suggest you use an email sent to me at [crimestopperslaw@aol.com](mailto:crimestopperslaw@aol.com) to initiate the dialogue. You can state your questions or simply ask for us to schedule a phone call. If there are any documents such as a subpoena, letter, bylaw, contract, reward offer, publication, etc., please send a scanned or electronic image to me as an email attachment. Our time can be used much more efficiently and effectively if I have already reviewed such materials before we talk on the phone.

If a matter is of a more urgent nature, text me at (817) 343-5496 and ask whether I can take your call, and if not, when it can be scheduled.

And, of course, if truly an emergency where time is of the essence, make the call to me at (817) 343-5496.

If you make a call to me and get an outgoing voice message from me, PLEASE do not disconnect until after you have left a voice message with your name, organization name, and phone number for the return call.

The above suggested protocol is necessary because there are so many Crime Stoppers organizations who might be needing me; I represent many law enforcement officers in Texas through the Law Enforcement Officers Legal Defense Program sponsored by Texas Law Shield dba U.S. Law Shield and I often take calls from the scene of an officer-involved shooting or critical incident which is a priority that trumps all other calls; I travel a lot between my homes and offices in Arlington, Uvalde, and Houston and cellular service is not always the best (I understand there are also new laws about cellular phones and driving); I have a family; and lastly, I sleep four (4) hours each day, although you must guess which four (4) as they may vary from day to day.

# Be Proactive

JB Smith

Executive Director, Crime Stoppers of Lufkin

Past Chairman, Texas Crime Stoppers Council

Successful Crime Stoppers organizations do more than react to previously-committed crimes. All CS organizations offer rewards for anonymously-submitted crime-solving information but few stop there. By finding other ways to be useful to the community, we increase public awareness of our organizations and that awareness assists with crime prevention, fundraising, and crime solving efforts.

Many CS organizations do more than they realize. They might think their work stops at publicizing unsolved crimes and offering rewards, but they have a far-reaching impact on their community. A social media or website post regarding burglaries in a neighborhood is an attempt to identify the persons responsible and recover stolen property, but the post also is an educational, crime prevention, and fundraising tool. A single post can reach many thousands of people, and the vast majority of those who read it will know nothing about the crime or the criminals. Among the readers, only a few are potential tipsters, but the rest still get something from the post.

Even the simplest of posts regarding a crime assists with crime prevention, fundraising, and crime solving efforts by educating the community, informing donors, and reminding law enforcement of the CS organization's purpose. The post tells the community about the crime and serves as a reminder to make ourselves a harder target. It informs potential donors of the organization's efforts. It shows area law enforcement officers and agencies that the organization is working to reduce their crime-prevention and crime-solving burdens. Imagine how much more could be achieved by adding a little to the simple post.

Discuss the crime—who, what, when, where, and how—but include tactics that could have helped prevent it. Offer a reward for a case-solving anonymous tip and include statistical data showing the organization's successes when assisting law enforcement with similar crimes. And, praise the efforts of the officers and agencies investigating the crime. Do this, to some extent, every time you release information regarding an unsolved crime, and you'll likely see increased participation from area law enforcement and tipsters, board members showing more interest in organizational activities, and donors more willing to help you meet your fundraising goals.

How else can we be proactive? Look for ways to achieve the organization's crime-prevention and crime-solving goals while having a positive impact on quality of life for the community.

Little, and free, things, like including a link on your website that will help a resident report a pothole or a streetlamp being out can improve the resident's quality of life and will go a long way toward the prevention of crime. People put their head down and ignore their surroundings when they feel no one cares about their concerns; they'll report things that happen directly to them but everything else is disregarded. If they know someone will listen to their complaints; they'll pay attention to their community and look for problems to report; you need not accept or act upon their complaints, you need

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## ***Be Proactive***

only direct them to the correct agency. If they're paying attention and see your website as a useful portal for reaching the proper authority, they're likely to notice suspicious activity and report it. When roads are properly maintained, street lamps are operational, and residents' calls are keeping public service agencies in the area, criminals will find somewhere else to ply their trade.

Helping reduce crime and helping to improve quality of life go hand-in-hand and both can be accomplished without losing focus on the primary goal of helping law enforcement fight crime. It doesn't take as much time or effort as you might think to involve school campuses in your regular CS activities, to partner with an animal control agency and accept tips regarding animal abuse and neglect, or to guide citizens in forming neighborhood associations. Every community is different but all communities have needs that you can proactively address.

Remember to review your organization's bylaws before taking on any new program.

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## **Thank you for visiting us in Seguin...**



**...look for us February 26-28 in Houston for the 23rd Annual Texas Campus Crime Stoppers Conference hosted by Crime Stoppers of Houston.**

**[Register NOW!](#)**