



2-63 CRIME STOPPERS INVESTIGATIONS

2-63-1 Policy

Department policy is to support the crime-fighting capabilities of the Crime Stoppers Program by providing a Crime Stoppers Unit that coordinates a department-wide information system. The Crime Stoppers Unit that safeguards the confidentiality of crime stoppers informants.

2-63-2 Rules and Procedures

3 A. Separate Indexed Crime Stoppers Tip File

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.

6 B. Informant Anonymity

Informants to the Crime Stoppers Program are always anonymous.

6 C. Crime Stoppers Unit File

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. In agreement with the Albuquerque Metropolitan Crime Stoppers Board of Directors.

2. All Crime Stoppers Unit files, computer program information, log books, and tip information are the property of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Crime Stoppers Program.

3. 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

- 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.
- ii. Crime Stoppers information will not be incorporated into the files of the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

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

6

D. 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.

6

E. Incorporating Tip Information into Case Files

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

F. 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.



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-63

Effective: 01/13/16 Expires: 01/13/17 Replaces: 04/27/15

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Policy Development Form
Office of Policy Analysis



Name and Title: Tony Simballa---Sergeant

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SOP: 2-63 (Specifically 2-63-2-C-3-b-ii)

Date Completed: 07/12/2018

In order to gain a clear understanding of the reason for the policy change, please answer the questions below with as much detail as possible as this information will be shared with internal and external stakeholders interested in participating in APD's policy development process.

Explain the rationale or purpose for the new policy or amended policy? Example: Best practices, case law, liability, conflicts with other policies or regulations, CASA related.

I am proposing that we remove 2-63-2-C-3-b-ii completely from the SOP. The reason behind this proposal is due to the hindrance this poses to future investigations. I'm guessing this language was originally put into place due to the thought Crime Stopper Tips would be the sole basis for an Intelligence file being opened. This is NOT the case. All information passed on or gathered by Intelligence Detectives still has to be vetted and verified that a criminal predicate exists before a file could be opened. An example would be: If an anonymous person called SID and asked to speak to one of my detectives and passed on information that a particular person or business is committing a crime, we would never open a file based off that information. We would have to do a background and research to verify the information being passed on to us can be deemed credible. That scenario is the same as a Crime Stopper Tip being passed on. It is just information to possibly point us in the right direction. If you look at 2-63-2-E, this completely covers us and all detectives about the use of a Crime Stoppers Tip.

If striking 2-63-2-C-3-b-ii completely from the SOP is not feasible I then suggest that we change the wording to say: Crime Stoppers information will not be the sole reason an Intelligence file exists.

The information in a Crime Stoppers Tip can be extremely valuable. By allowing concerned citizens to utilize the anonymous capability of Crime Stoppers helps the police in many ways. Therefore, by not allowing Crime Stopper information to be incorporated at all into an Intelligence file would be detrimental to police work and the citizens we serve.

What is the policy intended to accomplish? Explain the general intent with respect to the specific topic of the policy.

By striking SOP 2-63-2-C-3-b-ii from the SOP, it would allow for pertinent, valuable, and credible information to be the starting point for Intelligence gathering efforts. All investigations start somewhere, whether it's a tip, confidential informant, or firsthand knowledge. By having a tip passed on from Crime Stoppers or having an anonymous person pass information onto a detective are completely the same. There is a strict process that has to be followed to verify criminal predicate exists before a file could ever be opened. By taking away the ability to use information from a Crime Stopper Tip would essentially never allow for some information to be followed up on. [Example: If a tip came in on a possible illegal gambling ring and we began doing surveillance or introducing undercovers into the group, we would never be able to say how we started the investigation due to the way the

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Policy Development Form Office of Policy Analysis



current SOP is written.]

How will the policy be measured to determine its effectiveness? (Example: Will data be collected, if so, in what format and who will maintain the information?)

The way this information would be measured would fall on the supervisors in the chain of command for the Intelligence Unit. The sergeant would have the first responsibility to ensure that a Crime Stoppers Tip would not be the sole reason an Intelligence file exists. On top of that when an Intelligence file is opened the process ALWAYS goes through the chain of command from the sergeant to the lieutenant, to the commander with the justification that criminal predicate exists.

Please list any references used to draft the policy such as policies from other agencies, case law, directives from the CASA, research papers, etc.

Crime Stoppers and the Intelligence Unit follow Federal Regulations of 28 CFR Part 23 for Intelligence gathering and dissemination. The Intelligence Unit is also part of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Units Association (LEIU) which is an organization globally known and utilized for proper intelligence gathering efforts. The Albuquerque Police Department has been part of this organization for numerous years and is in compliance with the requirements set forth through Federal Regulations. By keeping on task and adhering to the rules we would continue to utilize best practices to fulfill our job duties.

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