TEXT TIP LINE

What: Text Tiplines offer the only completely anonymous reporting system. Using email and text formats, community members are able to anonymously submit tips to law enforcement who can then respond to the issues. The system does not record or show the phone number, so all text messages are anonymous.

Who: Text Tiplines area way for people in the community to share information they might otherwise share due to concerns of anonymity.

When: Texting Tiplines allow you to submit a tip anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Community members can even submit photos such as a suspicious vehicle. *A texting tipline is not for crimes or emergencies in progress. People will still need to call 911 in those situations.*

Where: Many communities implement texting tiplines within their city or county by using the already existing police or sheriff's department dispatch system. By taking advantage of modern technology and understanding how many people now communicate, texting tiplines overcome barriers.

Why: Texting tiplines are an effective tool to report crime to law enforcement anonymously. Texting tiplines are a way for people to share information they might otherwise be afraid to share with law enforcement.

How to get started:

1. Contact your local law enforcement agency (Sheriff's Office or Police Department) and ask if they would support the implementation of a texting tipline. Some communities have even worked with Game and Fish or Fire Departments to implement texting tiplines. Texting tiplines can also be administered by a school or School Resource Officer.
2. Implement a tipline. There are companies that can work with you to implement a tipline. They can train your staff, provide you with a phone and software, and can even help you promote your tipline number.
3. Promote the tipline. Create posters, flyers, billboards, etc. Make sure the community knows it is available and how to use it.
4. Collect data. Find out how many tips are coming in, what kind of tips are coming in, and the result of the tips.
5. Report the success of the tipline to the community. Create buy-in and sustainability.