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## *House of Representatives*

### Houston Crime Stoppers

HON. TED POE  
OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Friday, November 9, 2007*

Madam Speaker, the safety and security of American communities is a vital ingredient in the preservation of liberties we as a nation hold dear. Nonetheless, individuals occasionally attempt to upset our sense of wellbeing. Holding these criminals accountable for their actions is thus of the utmost importance. Since 1981, Houston Crime Stoppers has tirelessly worked towards keeping our neighborhoods protected through helping law enforcement solve numerous cases.

Imported, from a similar program in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by members of the Exchange Club of Houston, the organization quickly grew into a world leader, assisting to solve felony offences. The success achieved by this group is made possible through the ease of reporting information to the Tip Line. As a result of assigning callers with code numbers, anonymity is easily maintained, while encouraging informants to continue to contact Crime Stoppers. If the information provided leads to an arrest, a financial reward is then given to the appropriate citizens. From 1981 to 2006 over 6.5 million dollars have been paid in cash rewards, a testament towards the large response to Crime Stoppers throughout the Houston community.

Prevention is also a key aspect of Houston Crime Stoppers mission. Serving over 200-area middle and high schools, the Safe School Program works to educate students and administrators about how to recognize dangers. Their focus in particular concerns gang activity, terrorist threats, and possession of dangerous weapons. Students can report serious crimes to officers, through the anonymous tip line before they escalate into perilous situations. These informed campuses are better protected as a result, illustrated alone by the 52 gun related arrests in just the past decade.

A similar initiative sponsored by Crime Stoppers is the Safe Apartment Program. Like preventative programs in area schools, the identifying crime is a major concentration. Complex managers and staff are taught how to recognize and report criminal activity. Residents also can inform officers of offenders in their community, through the Tip Line. This has proven to effectively reduce crime, making the affected neighborhoods increasingly safer. Operating in partnership with citizens, media, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system, Houston Crime Stoppers is now the number one community based organization dedicated to deciphering and preventing serious crime. Since their 1981 inception, 26,593 cases have been closed as a result of these dedicated citizens. Of these many servings of justice, they solved 817 homicides, 832 murders, and apprehended 8,917 felony fugitives. Still, these statistics make up only a portion of the many other transgressions resolved as a result of Houston Crime Stoppers.

And that's just the way it is.