

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

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P.O. BOX 387
PORT OF SPAIN,
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

February 16, 2006

Mr. John Aboud
Chairman
Crime Stoppers Trinidad and Tobago

In Support of Crime Stoppers Month 2006

It is with great pleasure and appreciation that I undertake to share in the celebrations of Crime Stoppers International and more so, Crime Stoppers Trinidad and Tobago, by highlighting the achievements of the Crime Stoppers Programme, Trinidad and Tobago.

The Crime Stoppers Programme acts as a vehicle for citizens to anonymously provide information to the Police, as it relates to crime and criminal activity. The success of the programme rests heavily upon the premise of the public that they are safe and that all information communicated to Crime Stoppers will be dealt with in strict confidence. The Programme therefore encourages citizens to become more involved in policing their communities to rid their neighbourhood of the scourge of crime and criminal activity.

However, many citizens are reluctant to provide information directly to the Police for two reasons; namely, fear and apathy, but the birth of the Crime Stoppers Programme has sought to overcome these barriers.

The birth of the Crime Stoppers Programme originated in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1976 where a University student who was working at a gas station was shot in cold blood after the station was robbed. This was a senseless killing. The Detective investigating the case promised the victim's mother to bring his murderers to justice.

With the assistance of a television station, where the Detective requested that the crime be reenacted, with the hope that by persons viewing the crime, this would trigger the memory of a potential witness, or someone with information that could lead to the capture of assailants. Someone did

call. The caller recognized the vehicle used in the killing. The vehicle was traced, resulting in the arrests of the assailants, not only for the murder but also for six other robberies.

This bit of history was given in order to emphasize the point that even though investigations are solved through brilliant investigations on the part of the Police Investigators, Crime Stoppers is an ideal fit into the Community Policing concept since information provided by members of the public is crucial to solving crimes.

In Trinidad and Tobago, through the Crime Stoppers Programme and as a result of the citizens of this country who are interested in cleaning up their communities, a number of murders, kidnappings and sexual offenses have been solved; a quantity of firearms, ammunition and narcotics has been removed from the streets and a number of stolen vehicles have been recovered. All this could not have been possible without valuable information coming to the Police, through the Programme.

On behalf of the members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, I would like to express my heart felt thanks to you, the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, who have placed your trust in this programme, by calling Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS and supplying the Police Service with valuable information that have led to the arrest and in some instances, the conviction of the criminal element in society. I would like to urge you to continue to make use of the Crime Stoppers Programme, as I can assure you that this programme is working, it is safe, your information is treated in confidence and acted upon by our Police Officers resulting in the arrest and conviction of criminals in the society.

Thank You,

Thank you.

Trevor Paul