

NEWS RELEASE

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THE SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES ANONYMOUS TIP SERVICE AS PROACTIVE CRIME TOOL

PUBLIC CAN SUBMIT ANONYMOUS CRIME TIPS VIA WEB, TEXTING, OR MOBILE DEVICE

SUFFOLK, VA (February 13, 2014) The Suffolk Police Department announced today the availability of [TipSoft](#), a service for citizens to anonymously submit crime-related tips through the Web, a text message, or from any Android or iPhone mobile device with the [TipSubmit mobile app](#). The use of TipSoft is part of the agency's proactive efforts to prevent, reduce, and solve crime.

TipSoft is successful because it uses technology that is familiar to citizens, which allows them to carry on an anonymous two-way conversation with the agency without requiring them to speak directly to an officer. TipSoft is proven to help stop and solve crimes. To date, the TipSoft system, used across the country, has received more than two million tips, resulting in 145,000 arrests, 55,000 fugitives caught, and more than \$5.3 billion recovered in drugs and property - including 11,000 vehicles and 22,000 weapons.

Chief of Police Thomas E. Bennett said, "The Suffolk Police Department is excited about the addition of text tipping to our investigative tools. In today's world, every one operates via cell phones. This addition to our Crime Line capabilities will undoubtedly assist us in solving more crimes by obtaining tips from not only traditional methods such as phones and voicemails but through the use of non-traditional means such as email

and text. The text tipping system will be easier and quicker while still providing a level of confidentiality for the tipster. We look forward to using this system.”

In addition to encouraging the public to submit crime-related information using Web forms, mobile apps, and texting, TipSoft supports users’ ability to submit videos or photographs using the TipSoft mobile app. TipSoft can be used to submit information on crimes, missing children, fugitives, and other non-emergency situations.

“We welcome The Suffolk Police Department to the list of over 900 law-enforcement organizations that are effectively using TipSoft and applaud their commitment to public safety,” says William Kilmer, CEO of PublicEngines. “With TipSoft, agencies can invite the public to take an active role in making their communities safer.”

Citizens are encouraged to use TipSoft to report information about any non-urgent illegal activity, such as unsolved cases, vandalism, theft, the sale and distribution of drugs or information about crimes that are being planned in the community or in schools. Tips can be submitted by visiting www.tipsubmit.com, or by texting the word “**CRIMES**” (274637) with the keyword **SPDVATIP**.

About PublicEngines

PublicEngines helps law enforcement, governments, and the public prevent, reduce, and solve crime with easy-to-use, cloud-based solutions that facilitate crime analysis, supply actionable intelligence and increase community engagement. PublicEngines’ products include CrimeReports – the #1 most popular online crime mapping solution available; CommandCentral – a rich, intuitive, and affordable crime analytics and data visualization engine; and TipSoft – the industry’s most widely adopted anonymous crime tip submission and management platform. PublicEngines’ products are used by more than 2,000 agencies and governments. Its website CrimeReports.com and the CrimeReports mobile application are used by millions of individuals worldwide to find local crime information.

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