



# Colorado Springs Police Department

## General Order

### 202 Crime Stoppers

#### Section 200 – Community Collaboration

Effective Date: 3/8/2022

Supersedes Date: 8/16/2021

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### **.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this directive is to describe the interaction and relationship between the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) and the Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers, Inc (PPAC).

### **.02 Cross-Reference**

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### **.03 Discussion**

PPAC, Inc. is a public charity with 501(c)3 status (tax-exempt) that works with law enforcement agencies by offering cash rewards to people who remain anonymous and provide information regarding criminal activity in the Fourth Judicial District. It is governed by State of Colorado nonprofit regulations by a board of directors, including liaisons from local law enforcement agencies.

The PPAC contracts with a call center where anonymous callers can provide tips on criminal activity or the whereabouts of wanted felons. Designated Community Advancing Public Safety (CAPS) volunteers process tips received by the CSPD. All tips are then forwarded to the appropriate investigative unit or patrol division for follow-up.

### **.04 Policy**

After PPAC receives information about criminal activity occurring in Colorado Springs, PPAC will provide CSPD with anonymous tip information.

CAPS volunteers will process the tip then distribute the tip to the appropriate investigative unit or patrol division for follow-up.

The tip will be assigned and appropriately investigated with the outcome documented in the PPAC database, as soon as reasonable.

## **.05 Definitions**

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## **.10 Records Security**

All PPAC records, documents, and materials in the CSPD's possession and/or control will be secured and maintained as deemed appropriate.

## **.20 Assigned Personnel**

The PPAC is an independent entity and separate from CSPD. The PPAC has an executive director and a board of directors that oversee the PPAC operations and fundraising.

A CSPD sworn staff member will be assigned as a liaison to the board of directors, and CSPD will utilize CAPS volunteers to assist with tip processing.

## **.30 Follow-Up of Crime Stoppers Tips**

The PPAC tip follow-up will be conducted utilizing the same procedures set forth for other investigatory leads.

The investigating officer must treat the information professionally, giving it the same credence as any other criminal tip or lead. The identity of the tipster, when known, must not be further disclosed pursuant to CRS §16-15.7-103 (b).

## **.31 Crime Stoppers Tips Procedure**

PPAC tips alone **will not** be used to as probable cause for an arrest or search warrant without further validation or investigation. Officers receiving PPAC tips will utilize investigatory techniques to obtain critical evidence and information that will appropriately and independently establish probable cause.

Additionally, officers **will not** refer to the tip as a PPAC tip when completing case reports or writing warrants. Instead, officers should only document that they received anonymous information or a tip, leading them to start an investigation.

## **.32 Follow-up of Other Tips**

When a person provides information about criminal activity to a department member directly, rather than through the PPAC program, it is the responsibility of that department member to document and forward the information, as required by departmental policy.

Under no circumstances will any department member suggest or request that the information be channeled through the PPAC program instead.

*Exception: Community members who contact our department to report suspected narcotics activity and who wish to remain anonymous may be directed to contact the PPAC.*

## **.34 Non-Duplication of Rewards**

PPAC will not pay a reward to any informant who has received, or who is expected to receive, a reward, whether monetary or otherwise, from any other agency or bureau for the same information. In addition, PPAC will not pay for information already being paid for or for information from an existing police informant.

## **.40 Waiver of Anonymity**

PPAC is governed by Colorado Statute §16-15.7-103(a), to ensure the anonymity of all tipsters. In addition, the PPAC policies and procedures prohibit disclosure of a tipster's identity.

In the case of a caller who is willing to speak to an investigator, the call taker will inform the caller that they are no longer subject to the protection of the PPAC anonymity laws and not eligible for a PPAC reward once they waive anonymity to speak to an investigator.

The call taker will then provide the caller with the name and contact information for the appropriate law enforcement authority and offer to transfer the call, if appropriate.