

Best Practice: Community Effort with Crime Stoppers to Report Crime at the Ports



Category: Communications
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Description: The Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago and local Crime Stoppers have joined to provide cash rewards for information on crimes at the port leading to arrests.

Discussion: This type of joint effort can be started anywhere. Crime Stoppers relies heavily on community involvement, local police, and the local media. The organization works on the premise that any individual can provide information to help police solve a crime and is given a cash reward for the information. The informant can identify him/herself or opt to remain anonymous. Crime Stoppers is a good way to build relationships between the local police, media, and community.

Potential Down-side: If a local Crime Stoppers' organization is not established in the community, it may take a large effort by the port, police, and media to build a good understanding, positive reputation, and general acceptance within the community. Crime Stoppers is established as a not for profit organization, so people are needed to run the organization, answer phone calls, conduct fundraising activities, and pay rewards to individuals.

Conclusion: Crime Stoppers is a good way to get community involvement in crimes that occur at the port and surrounding communities. The organization has proven successful in communities around the world. Initial start up of the organization may take a considerable amount of time and effort on behalf of the port, police, media, and community.

Cost: The initial cost may be high if the organization has to be created. If Crime Stoppers is already in your community, it may be as simple as posting signs in and around the port facility.