



Elk Grove Police Department

Press Release

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CRIME TIPS VIA TEXT MESSAGING

Elk Grove PD to utilize text messaging to help solve crimes

ELK GROVE, CA – Mobile phone users in Elk Grove will now have the ability to provide anonymous tips regarding criminal activity to the Elk Grove Police Department through a new service called “TipSoft”.

“TipSoft” utilizes the power of SMS (Short Message Service) text messaging to send a message to a central number that removes a user’s identifying information and forwards it to law enforcement. The user’s information is always given an alias and a unique ID before being sent to the police department. The anonymity is two way, so if law enforcement wants to ask for further details, they can only do so by using the service in reverse. This secure application allows the person texting and law enforcement to have two-way dialog while always keeping the user’s identity completely anonymous.

“This is another tool that allows the community to pass on information regarding criminal activity taking place in the city,” said Elk Grove Police Chief Robert Simmons. “Text messaging has grown in popularity in recent years, and this is an excellent way for the community to help the police department fight crime.”

Members of the community you have information regarding criminal activity can send tips via SMS text message by entering CRIMES (274637) on their cell phones, followed by Tip732 (agency identification number) and the message. Once users type in their message and press send, they will receive a confirmation text indicating that the message was received.

“Tipsoft” should not be considered a replacement for contacting the Elk Grove Police Department via telephone (916) 714-5115 (non-emergency), (916) 714-5111 / 911 (emergency) or (916) 691-0411 (anonymous tip line). Instead, “Tipsoft” should be seen as an alternative method of contacting law enforcement to provide information regarding non-urgent illegal activity, such as unsolved cases, vandalism, graffiti, theft and narcotics related issues.

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