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# News Release

## **HPD Now Offers Tipsters to Text Tips**

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The Harrisonburg Police Department now offers more ways to submit anonymous information.

In addition to the Crime Solvers telephone number, HPD is offering services so citizens can text in tips or submit tips online.

HPD currently uploads all calls for service to [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com). This website provides a map with the date, time, location, and type of offense. The disposition of the call for service is also shown. Crime Reports allows users to register an address to receive an e-mail or text message alert when an incident occurs near that location.

Through this website, the public can submit information anonymously.

When using both electronic anonymous submissions, the information comes to HPD in the form of a tipster number. Cell phone numbers are never viewable by the Department.

Once a tip is texted, someone from HPD is able to respond back to the tipster in the form of a text.

“Being able to communicate with the tipster through texting will be a big advancement in the Crime Solvers Program,” said Mary-Hope Vass, HPD’s Public Information Officer and Crime Analyst.

Many times it is difficult to follow-up with anonymous tipsters. Having direct contact will enable more tip money to be distributed throughout our community.

**Instructions for texting a tip:**

1. Text “HPD” plus your message to 274637 (CRIMES). It is important to text “HPD” as the first word of the message to ensure our Department receives the information.
2. Upon reception of a tipster’s first incoming message, the system will text a confirmation to include their unique tip alias (always keep track of your tip alias).
3. To submit follow-up information, the tipster simply replies. Nothing else is needed.
4. All follow-up tips and even your replies from the application are written under the original parent record and shown threaded and date/time stamped in the narrative. The thread may be terminated by the tipster texting STOP into the system at any time or by you manually selecting the “terminate thread” button from within the application.

**Instructions for submitting tips through Crime Reports:**

1. Go to [www.harrisonburgva.gov/police](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/police)
2. Click on the Crime Reports link
3. Click “submit a tip about a crime”

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