



Pascagoula Police Department

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Kenny Johnson, Chief of Police

TO: Kay Kell, City Manager
FROM: Kenny Johnson, Chief of Police
DATE: March 11, 2010
SUBJECT: Funding Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers

In 1985 the Pascagoula Police Department along with other Law Enforcement Agencies along the coast organized The Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers. The Pascagoula Police Department was an active member of this organization until August 2005, when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. At this time the Coast Crime Stoppers became inactive due to the devastation that struck the entire coast.

In January 2010 the Pascagoula Police Department was contacted by Trish Harbour, State Director of Crime Stoppers to help get this program reactivated. The Crime Stoppers Tip Line is an outstanding tool that allows the citizens of Pascagoula to assist our Department and other agencies in solving crimes. It allows local law enforcement to pay rewards that lead to the arrest and conviction of a crime at no cost to the Pascagoula Police Department. This is decided on by Board of Directors that is made up of non-law enforcement members from across the coast.

In 2002 the State Legislature passed a funding program that allows the municipalities to authorize an assessment on Misdemeanor Cases that are processed in Municipal Court to fund this program at no cost to the City of Pascagoula.

We believe that with the success that we have had with the Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers in the past in solving crimes that have impacted our citizens it is essential that we again become active in Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Kenny Johnson

KJ/ND



"To protect and serve."

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION
TO AUTHORIZE ASSESSMENT OF \$ 1.00
PER MISDEMEANOR CASE PROCESSED THROUGH
MUNICIPAL COURT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
MISSISSIPPI COAST CRIME STOPPERS**

THERE came on before Pascagoula City Council, in regular session a request of Chief Kenny Johnson for assessment of \$ 1.00 Per misdemeanor through Municipal Court for distribution to Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers for their use in awarding awards and other incentives to procure information about crimes which can be provided to the appropriate authorities so that those who commit crimes may be captured and convicted.

UPON investigation, this authority finds in fact, and adjudicates that Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers is a Mississippi non-profit corporation which has proposed a \$ 1.00 per misdemeanor assessment to be collected in all cases processed through Municipal Court for distribution to Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers.

THIS authority further finds that the use of said funds is of material benefit to the residents of Pascagoula City/County, Mississippi and that it would be in the best interest of Pascagoula City/County to fund Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers through the assessment of \$ 1.00 per misdemeanor charge on all cases processed through its court system.

ON motion by _____, seconded by _____ and adopted, it was ordered that _____ City/County, Mississippi assess a \$ 1.00 per misdemeanor fee on all cases processed through the _____ Court with the revenue generated from said fee being distributed by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Planning and given to Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers for its use in procuring information about crimes committed in Pascagoula City/County, Mississippi to be provided to appropriate authorities so that those who commit said crimes may be captured and convicted.

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

2002 Regular Session

To: County Affairs; Municipalities

By: Senator(s) Hamilton, Scoper, Browning

Senate Bill 2481

(As Sent to Governor)

AN ACT TO CODIFY SECTION 45-39-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHICH HAVE ESTABLISHED A LOCAL CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM TO ASSESS AN ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE UPON PERSONS FINED FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING PARTICIPATION IN SUCH PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 45-39-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXPAND THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM UNDER THIS CHAPTER; TO AMEND SECTION 45-39-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF CRIME STOPPERS COMMUNICATIONS RECORDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section 45-39-17, Mississippi Code of 1972:

45-39-17. In addition to any other monetary penalties and other penalties imposed by law, any county or municipality by ordinance may assess an additional surcharge in an amount not to exceed Two Dollars (\$2.00) on each person upon whom a county, justice or municipal court imposes a fine or other penalty for any misdemeanor other than offenses relating to vehicular parking or registration if there is established to the benefit of the citizens of the county or municipality a local crime stoppers program which is not authorized to receive funds under local and private legislation. The proceeds from the surcharge may be used by a county or municipality only to fund that county's or municipality's support of the local crime stoppers program as authorized by Section 45-39-15, Mississippi Code of 1972. The proceeds from the surcharge imposed by this subsection shall be deposited into a special fund in the Department of Public Safety's Office of Public Safety Planning which shall promulgate rules and procedures relating to the administration of the special fund and the disbursement of monies in the fund to participating counties and municipalities. The maximum amount that a county or municipality may receive from the special fund shall be an amount equal to the deposits made into the fund by that entity, less one percent (1%) to be retained by the Office of Public Safety Planning to defray the costs of administering the special fund. Interest earned on the special fund shall remain in the fund and shall be used by the Office of Public Safety Planning to further defray the costs of administering the special fund.

SECTION 2. Section 45-39-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

45-39-15. * * * The board of supervisors of a county and the governing authority of a municipality are authorized to contribute funds to a local crime stoppers program from the general fund of the county or municipality or any other available source if the local crime stoppers program is established to operate, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of that county or municipality.

This chapter shall not repeal or affect any local and private act establishing a county or local crime stoppers program providing for the operation and funding of such program.

SECTION 3. Section 45-39-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

45-39-7. (1) Council records relating to reports of criminal acts are confidential.

(2) Evidence of a communication between a person submitting a report of a criminal act to the council or a local crime stoppers program and the person who accepted the report on behalf of the council or local crime stoppers program is not admissible in a court or an administrative proceeding whether the evidence is held by the council or a local crime stoppers program or is held by a telecommunication service provider.

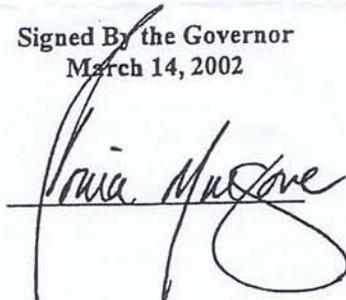
(3) Records of the council or a local crime stoppers program concerning a report of criminal activity and records of a telecommunication service provider relating to a report made to the council or to a local crime stoppers program may not be compelled to be produced before a court or other tribunal except on the motion of a criminal defendant to the court in which the offense is being tried that the records or report contain evidence that is exculpatory to the defendant in the trial of that offense. On motion of a defendant under this subsection, the court may subpoena the records or report. The court shall conduct an in-camera inspection of materials produced under subpoena to determine whether the materials contain evidence that is exculpatory to the defendant. If the court determines that the materials produced contain evidence that is exculpatory to the defendant, the court shall present the evidence to the defendant in a form that does not disclose the identity of the person who was the source of the evidence, unless the state or federal constitution requires the disclosure of that person's identity. The court shall execute an affidavit accompanying the disclosed materials swearing that, in the opinion of the court, the materials disclosed represent the exculpatory evidence the defendant is entitled to receive under this section. The court shall return to the council or to the local crime stoppers program materials that are produced under this section but not disclosed to the defendant. The council or local crime stoppers program shall store the materials until the conclusion of the criminal trial and the expiration of the time for all direct appeals in the case.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.

Passed Mississippi State Senate
February 6, 2002

Passed Mississippi House of Representatives
March 5, 2002

Signed By the Governor
March 14, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Musgrave", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.