

November 12, 2008

Dear Community Leaders:

The New Castle County Division of Police recently purchased the "Citizen Observer Text Tips Program."

The program allows the public to safely and anonymously send text tips from their own cellular telephones, enabling the County Police to reply to the sender's tip and elicit additional information.

How does it work? The public can send tips from any text enabled cell phone by texting a message to "CRIMES" (274637) and entering "TIPS702" at the beginning of their message. Once the message is sent, the server strips the text message of its identifying information prior to its reaching a police officer. The officer responds to the text message, establishing a dialogue with the sender.

When you complete your tip submission, in order to ensure your safety, you should always delete all text messages to and from 274637.

How can you help? We need the involvement of witnesses in the community. By utilizing text tip, those leaving tips will play a key role in reducing crimes or solving crimes without endangering themselves. Please share this information with community members, coworkers, friends and family.

If you see a crime in progress or need to report an emergency, please continue to call 911. The text tip is not meant to replace the 911 emergency response system.

We believe this new program provides the New Castle County Police with an innovative resource in their fight to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Colonel Rick S. Gregory,
Chief of Police
New Castle County Police Department

RSG/dlc