



January 3, 2011

Albany Police Launches Texting Tip Line

The Albany Police Department has made an anonymous texting tip line available to the public.

“Tip411” which is powered by Citizen Observer, and was funded through a joint Operation Impact grant with the Albany County District Attorney’s Office.

To use the service the caller texts “APDTips” and the tip information to 847411 (Tip411). All of the information is forwarded to the Albany County Crime Analysis Center and is 100 percent anonymous. Citizen Observer’s technology removes the identifying information of the sender before the tip is forwarded. The service allows a detective to follow up with the sender in a response text, but the citizen remains completely anonymous throughout the conversation.

“This program enables citizens, who otherwise might be reluctant to contact police or provide information to communicate anonymously through a text message. It continues our effort to strengthen our relationships with the community who want to rid their neighborhoods of crime”, stated Chief Steven Krokoff.

The text tip line went live on January 1.

It is not intended to replace calls for 911 service. Anyone needing to report an emergency should continue to utilize 911.

The text tip line system is currently being utilized by other law enforcement agencies around the country.