

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster, California

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04/14/09
MVB

Date: April 14, 2009

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Mark V. Bozigian, City Manager

Subject: **Approval of One Year City Membership in WE TIP, Inc.**

Recommendation:

Authorize the City Manager to enter into a one year City membership in WE TIP, Inc., a nationwide anonymous informant hotline.

Fiscal Impact:

One year membership in the amount of \$8,800 from adopted FY 2008-2009 budgeted tip line reward program, Account #101-4810-357.

Background:

As a part of the adopted FY 2008-2009 Budget, the City Council appropriated \$25,000 to promote the City of Lancaster anonymous crime tip line, 948-COPS. This initiative, known as CSI Lancaster (Crime Stopping Initiative), allows citizens to collect a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons involved in burglaries and robberies. Additionally, the 948-COPS hotline serves as a general anonymous tip line for various other kinds of information. As an example of activity, in February 2009 there were 49 calls made to 948-COPS.

In order to enhance the community's ability to report crime anonymously, staff is recommending that City Council approve a one year contract with WE TIP, Inc., a well known national crime hotline. Funding for this one year trial would come from the existing \$25,000 approved for the reward program; no new appropriation of funding would be required.

Councilwoman Marquez, first as a private citizen and then as a Council Member, has been instrumental in investigating the WE TIP program by contacting other jurisdictions and agencies that are members of WE TIP. She has also spoken about WE TIP at numerous community and media events.

Staff believes that the addition of WE TIP will complement and enhance the City's anonymous tip line efforts and will provide the community with another tool to provide critical information to the Sheriff's Department.

MVB:tsc

Attachment:

WE TIP Membership Proposal for City of Lancaster