



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 2/6/2024

Item Title: Collaborative Partnership with X Action
Cameron County Crime Stoppers and Information
Brownsville ISD Discussion

BACKGROUND:

Cameron County Crime Stoppers is committed to fostering a safe environment in Cameron County. By collaborating with law enforcement agencies and the public, they seek to gather and disseminate information that leads to the apprehension of individuals involved in criminal activities.

Cameron County Crime Stoppers is interested in establishing a partnership with Brownsville ISD to incentivize anonymous tipsters. Through this collaboration, students will have the opportunity to report any criminal activities, present or impending, anonymously. The rights of the tipsters will be safeguard under Texas Government Codes 414.007 and 414.008.

The primary objective of this partnership is to ensure the safety of Brownsville ISD students, and staff by providing a mechanism for reporting crimes without the fear of reprisal.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

No Fiscal Implications

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the MOU for a partnership with Cameron County Crime Stoppers and Brownsville Independent School District. At no cost to the District.

Martin Sandoval
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Dr. Linda Gallegos
Recommended by: Chief Human Resources Officer

Miguel Salinas
Reviewed by: Staff Attorney

Dr. Linda Gallegos
Approved by: Chief Human Resources Officer

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Jesus H. Chavez
Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Interim Superintendent

Memoranda of Understanding
Between
Cameron County Crime Stoppers
&
Brownsville Independent School District

Cameron County Crime Stoppers is a “crime Stoppers organization” as defined by Texas Local, Government Code 351.90, a 501c3 non-profit whose purpose includes paying rewards to persons who report to Student Crime Stoppers information about criminal activity and forward the information to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or schools within the Brownsville Independent School District.

Cameron County Crime Stoppers which pays cash rewards for tips leading to an arrest of students. Crimes and potential dangers that can be reported include but are not limited to terroristic threats, possession of weapons, vandalism, theft, possession of narcotics, and gang activity, violations of school rules deemed or punishable by the Texas Penal Code which have already occurred, or is in the process of occurring, or may occur in the future on school campuses, school buses, and at school events.

Cameron County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors has agreed to fund the program from general revenues and from donations designated for the purpose of solving and preventing crime on school campuses, school buses, school events, and crimes which include juveniles within our community. Cameron County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors will determine reward amounts and method of payment of rewards; and

It is agreed that this Memoranda of Understanding (“MOU”) is active until such time as either party terminates within a sixty (60) day written notice:

1. Cameron County Crime Stoppers agrees to:
 - a. Participate in this comprehensive multi-agency Student Crime Stoppers Program dedicated to solving and preventing criminal activity and felony crime including but not limited to terroristic threats, possession of weapons, vandalism, theft, possession of narcotics, and gang activity which has already occurred or is in the process of occurring, or may occur in the future on school campuses, school buses, and at school events.

- b. Once implemented, provide cost-free presentations, fliers, posters, signage, and training materials to the school for distribution upon request.
- c. Provide staff to facilitate presentations and training on Student Crime Stoppers to students, school staff, parents, and security/law enforcement agency personnel.
- d. Forward information received on the telephone tip line to designated school law enforcement or administrative personnel for appropriate action at selected campuses.
- e. Provide the use of Cameron County Crime Stoppers telephone tip line for students to call to provide information about criminal activity and felony crimes including but not limited to terroristic threats, possession of weapons, vandalism, theft, possession of narcotics, and gang activity which have already occurred, or is in the process of occurring, or may occur in the future on school campuses, school buses, and at school events.
- f. Protect the caller's identity through the issuance of a unique Student Crime Stoppers code number to each caller to provide anonymity to callers.
- g. Pay cash rewards to any individual who reports information through the Student Crime Stoppers Program that results in the arrest of an individual for criminal offenses and felony crimes including but not limited to terroristic threats, possession of weapons, vandalism, theft, possession of narcotics, and gang activity which have already occurred, or is in the process of occurring, or may occur in the future on school campuses, school buses, and at school events.
- h. Pay cash rewards to any individual who reports information through the Student Crime Stoppers Program that results in the arrest of an individual for criminal offenses and felony crimes including but not limited to terroristic threats, possession of weapons, vandalism, theft, possession of narcotics, and gang activity from occurring and is corroborated in a manner of the Cameron County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors satisfactory.

2. Brownsville Independent School District agrees to:

- a. Participate in this comprehensive multi-agency Student Crime Stoppers Program dedicated to solving and preventing criminal activity and felony crime including but not limited to terroristic threats, possession of weapons, vandalism, theft, possession of narcotics, and gang activity which has already occurred or is in the process of occurring, or may occur in the future on school campuses, school buses, and at school events.
- b. Receive training material from Cameron County Crime Stoppers for school-wide distribution. The Brownsville Independent School District Police Department or designee has the right to review all material prior to distribution or posting, in accordance with Board Policy.

- c. Provide appropriate time and facilities for all students, school personnel, and security/law enforcement personnel at all elementary, middle, and high school campuses to attend presentations on the Student Crime Stoppers Program if requested, and in accordance with Board Policy.
- d. In accordance with Board Policy, promote Student Crime Stoppers through timely announcements over the public address system, at Parent-Teacher Organizations/Associations meetings, and in material sent home for parent review, as well as by posting program fliers on school campuses and throughout social media, In accordance with Board Policy, the Brownsville Independent School District Police Department or designee shall review and approve all materials prior to their distribution or posting.
- e. Allow students access to a phone for the purpose of making phone calls to Student Crime Stoppers. This phone should not be designated as “Student Crime Stoppers Tip Line”, but shall be accessed through administrators, counselors, or police officers on campus.



Carlos G. H.

Cameron County Crime Stoppers
Representative

Brownsville ISD Representative




Brownsville Independent School District

1900 Price Road Brownsville, Texas 78521-2417 (956) 698-6379 Fax: (956) 548-8115

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
Interim Superintendent

Miguel Salinas
Staff Attorney

To: M. Sandoval
From: M. Salinas 
Date: 01/08/2024

Re: MOU Cameron County Crime Stoppers

Dear Mr. Sandoval:

The above referenced agreement is approved as to form.

Thank you.

BISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or genetic information in employment or provision of services, programs or activities.

BISD no discrimina a base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, religión, edad, discapacidad o información genética en el empleo o en la provisión de servicios, programas o actividades.

Isela Vieyra

From: Priscilla Lozano <plozano@808West.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:56 PM
To: Isela Vieyra
Cc: Miguel Salinas; Kevin O'Hanlon; Lea Ohrstrom; Minerva Almanza
Subject: Re: MOU. Cameron County Crime Stoppers and BISD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Brownsville ISD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ms. Rios,

Happy New Year. I have reviewed the agreement, and it is approved as to form.

Sincerely,

Priscilla

ODC
O'HANLON, DEMERATH & CASTILLO
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

Priscilla L. Lozano
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Austin, Texas 78701
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From: Isela Vieyra <jvievra@bisd.us>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:12 AM
To: Priscilla Lozano <plozano@808West.com>
Cc: Miguel Salinas <miguelsalinas@bisd.us>; Kevin O'Hanlon <kohanlon@808West.com>; Lea Ohrstrom <lohrstrom@808West.com>; Minerva Almanza <malmanza1@bisd.us>
Subject: MOU. Cameron County Crime Stoppers and BISD

Good morning, Ms. Lozano.

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to share an agreement with you that requires your review and approval. Please find the attached document.