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PRESS RELEASE

NEW CRIME FIGHTING TECHNOLOGY SERVICE LAUNCHED BY THE SIOUX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ANDERSON SOFTWARE

For the first time, mobile phone and computer users across Sioux County now have the ability to provide anonymous crime fighting tips through the power of anonymous text messaging and online Web Tips.

The sheriff's office and Anderson Software, the industry leader in law enforcement tip management software, have joined together to provide this service which allows citizens to send anonymous tips through a text message from a mobile phone or an online message from their computer.

"The popularity of text messaging has created a significant opportunity for the public to help Law Enforcement agencies fight crime," said Sheriff Dan Altena. "The ability for any citizen who owns a mobile phone or computer to assist in crime solving is of great importance to us and we are excited to play such a pivotal role in the transmission of these crime fighting tips." Altena said, "There is no doubt that this program will dramatically increase our law enforcement capabilities."

Using *TipSoft*, *Text-A-Tip*, information may be anonymously received and securely replied to with complete confidence. The service was built specifically to allow text messaging or computer informants remain anonymous by encrypting the text or online message and routing them through several secure servers, protecting the personal details of the informant.

TipSoft, *Text-A-Tip* also allows the sheriff's office to respond to the originating tipster without ever knowing the identity of the individual who left the tip. The user's information is always given an alias and a unique ID before being sent. This secure application allows the tipster and the investigator to have a two-way dialog while always keeping the user's identity completely anonymous.

The Sioux County Sheriff's Office encourages everyone to report information about any illegal activity, such as unsolved cases, vandalism, theft, the sale and distribution of drugs or information about crimes that are being planned in the community or schools.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Go to www.siouxcountysheriff.com and click on TEXT-A-TIP

**** REMEMBER.....DO NOT TEXT AND DRIVE****

