

# CRIME WATCH

*A Newsletter by Crime Stoppers of Houston  
July 2020*



*We remain committed to our mission  
to solve and prevent serious crime in  
the Greater Houston Area.*

## WELCOME

Crime Stoppers has been serving Harris County for 40 years as the leading public safety organization in regards to bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community.

While we have many proactive programs to enhance safety in the schools and the public, our first priority is to receive and relay critical information anonymously to our law enforcement partners in order for them to solve felony crimes quickly, efficiently and safely.

Crime Stoppers puts the spotlight on unsolved violent crimes and has victim service/advocacy program in place to ensure crime victims are provided with the resources they need to rebuild their lives and to seek justice. We partner with numerous victim service providers including domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, drunk driving, missing persons, child abuse and homicide to help keep you safe and informed regarding crime victims' rights.

One of the trends our staff and I have noticed over the past year is our revolving door of felony defendants often granted multiple bonds under the guise of criminal justice

[continued on page 2]

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Welcome | p. 1

---

Legislative Efforts | p. 2

---

Tip Line Program | p. 3

---

Crime Trends | p. 4

---

Featured Cases | p. 5



## WELCOME [CONTINUED]

reform. The number of defendants released on felony bond is staggering to us and in some cases, we have actually paid rewards for a felony suspect only to turn right around and offer another reward after they are charged with crimes while out on bond.

it's our job and mission to ask tough questions in a respectful manner and more importantly offer solutions. This is the primary reason we feel it's imperative to inform the community, highlight cases, discuss victim rights, school safety and other topical issues by launching our first ever Newsletter.

Our plan and goal is to discuss in a myriad of ways what can all of us do to improve the safety of our community and schools. We want to hear what your concerns are, questions you have and suggestions to make Houston the leading proponent of public safety in the country.

Crime Stoppers is looking forward to having everyone join us in our journey. We need your partnership. Always remember your safety is our business.

Best regards,

**Rania Mankarious**  
Chief Executive Officer, Crime Stoppers of Houston

**Andy Kahan**  
Director of Victim Services



Pictured from left to right: Houston Area Women's Center CEO **Emilee Whitehurst**, Director of Victim Services **Andy Kahan**, Crime Stoppers CEO **Rania Mankarious**, and Harris County District Attorney **Kim Ogg** at a COVID-19 press conference in April 2020.

## TIP LINE PROGRAM

The **Tip Line Program** continues to be a national crime solving system and aims to equip and motivate all citizens to report crime. Through collaboration with more than 70 local and federal law enforcement agencies, the Tip Line has proven its success in solving and preventing crime in the Greater Houston Area.

Did you know? Tipsters remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.

Report crime and suspicious activity by calling, using our mobile app or going online.



Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)



Use our **Mobile App**  
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston



Go to [crime-stoppers.org](https://crime-stoppers.org)

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

- Enhance Criminal Penalties for defendants convicted in the offense of 'Celebratory Gunfire'.
- Create a statute to charge offenders with a crime when they remove/tamper/destroy their ankle monitor.
- Allow the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles discretion on all cases being considered for Parole not to review for release from 1-5 years as currently statutorily allowed in all offenders convicted of violent offenses.

We will continue to keep everyone updated as to how you can assist us once the Legislative session begins in January 2021.

	THROUGH MAY 2020	SINCE 1980
Cases Solved	180	35,573
Suspects Arrested	113	26,922
Tipsters Paid	122	23,218
Paid in Rewards	\$142,100	\$12,265,060
Seized/Recovered Property & Drugs	\$160,978	\$196,841,424

TYPE OF CRIME	THROUGH MAY 2020	SINCE 1980
Capital Murder	3	463
Muder/Manslaughter/Attempted Murder	5	667
Assaultive Offenses	26	1,118
Auto Theft/UUMV	2	1,596
Burglary-Business & Habitation	8	2,441
Robbery	29	4,535
Theft	10	1,671
Narcotics	16	4,642
Sex Crimes-Children	5	236*
Sex Crimes-Adult	3	53*
Bank Robberies	0	173**

\*Started looking at sex crimes by the age of the victim in 2009. This number reflects the total from 2009-Current. Actual since inception for all sex crimes is 522.

\*\* Began tracking in 2007.



180

CASES SOLVED



113

SUSPECTS ARRESTED



122

TIPSTERS PAID



\$142,100

PAID IN REWARDS



\$160,978

SEIZED/ RECOVERED PROPERTY & DRUGS

Through May 2020



The rising crime rates in Houston are alarming to our staff at Crime Stoppers of Houston. We are dedicated to not only uncovering crippling crime trends, but also working to create positive change. Our team is working around the clock to provide innovative public safety solutions to our entire community and we hope you will join us in doing the same.

**CITYWIDE CRIME STATISTICS**

The following statistics are based on the reporting of Houston Police Department and research done by Crime Stoppers staff members:

- **18% increase in murder**
- **119% increase in burglary-commercial**
- **253% increase in robbery-commercial**
- **12% increase in sexual assault cases**
- **23% increase in aggravated assault cases**
- **40% increase in domestic violence calls to Houston Area Women's Center**



**BOND REFORM**

Crime Stoppers supports **Misdemeanor Bond Reform**. We recognize and support the need for Criminal Justice Reform. What we do not support is when public safety is placed at risk because career habitual offenders are continuously released back to the community despite being charged with multiple violent crimes.

Here are two of many cases we have investigated regarding defendants being charged with violent crimes while out on multiple felony bonds.

If you are a law enforcement investigator needing Crime Stoppers assistance with your unsolved case, please contact **713-222-TIPS** and ask to speak to a media officer.

**NUMBER OF CASES WITH DEFENDENTS ON DEFERRED ADJUDICATION / PROBATION**



\*Above stats as of February 13, 2020 via Houston Police Officers' Union



**June 2020**

**Human Trafficking - Jerrick Hillard**

Jerrick Hillard is currently charged with Trafficking of Child and Compelling Prostitution was on Deferred Adjudication (Probation) and was granted three felony bonds. On June 17, 2019, Hillard was granted two felony bonds for UUMV (Auto Theft) and Fraudulent use of identifying information (Identity Theft). On October 17, 2019, he was once again released on felony bond for Engaging in Organized Crime. All three felony bond cases occurred in the 263rd District Court.

**What this means:**

Despite being on three felony bonds and probation, his bond was not revoked. If his bond and or probation had been revoked more than likely a 15 year-old girl would not have been the victim of human trafficking.



**April 2020**

**Capital Murder - Joshua Wolfe**

Joshua Wolfe was charged with Capital Murder April 2020 for causing the death of Byron Handy by shooting him during a Robbery. At the time of the offense, Wolfe was on Deferred Adjudication for UUMV (Auto Theft). While on Probation he was charged with Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon (Firearm) and was granted a Public Recognizance (PR Bond) May 2019. Still on Probation and on a PR Bond, Wolfe was charged with Aggravated Robbery with a Deadly Weapon (Firearm) in May 2019 and was allowed to be Bonded out. In February 2020, while still on Probation and two bonds, Wolfe was charged with yet another violent felony: Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Firearm) and was once again inexplicably allowed to post bond. On April 1st, 2020, Wolfe was charged with Capital Murder.

**What this means:**

Joshua Wolfe while on felony probation managed to be charged with three offenses all involving the use of a firearm and yet was allowed by a District Judge to remain in the community. His deferred adjudication (probation) was never revoked and motions to revoke his bond were denied by the 263rd District Court.

**UNSOLVED CASES FEATURED BY CRIME STOPPERS**

Visit [crime-stoppers.org/solve-crime](https://crime-stoppers.org/solve-crime) to take a look at unsolved and wanted fugitives featured by Crime Stoppers of Houston. Remember, only tips and calls directly to Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.



## CONTACT OUR TEAM



**Rania Mankarious**  
Chief Executive Officer

Crime Stoppers of Houston is committed to offering the most up-to-date public safety messaging. You and your family's safety remains our top priority. For media, speaking engagements, interviews, or blogs, please contact Rania.

✉ [rmankarious@crime-stoppers.org](mailto:rmankarious@crime-stoppers.org)



**Nichole Christoph**  
Deputy Director

Our Tip Line Program runs efficiently and effectively thanks to meticulous attention of our Law Enforcement Officers and our Deputy Director. If you have questions on how to utilize our anonymous Tip Line, please contact Nichole.

✉ [nchristoph@crime-stoppers.org](mailto:nchristoph@crime-stoppers.org)



**Andy Kahan**  
Director, Victim Services & Victim Advocacy

Our Victims Services & Victim Advocacy department works year round to fight for the rights of victims of violent crimes. If you are a surviving victim or family member of a victim seeking further assistance, please contact Andy.

✉ [akahan@crime-stoppers.org](mailto:akahan@crime-stoppers.org)

**KEEP OUR  
HOUSTON  
SAFE.**



**FOLLOW.**

For the latest crime news, educational opportunities, and community events, follow us on our socials!

[@crimestoppersofhouston](#)

[@theraniareport](#)

**SHARE.**

We are passionate about the work we do and hope you are to! **Spread the word** by sharing on social media and in conversations. Thank you!

**GIVE.**

We are Houston's top non-profit that keeps you safe everyday. Visit [crime-stoppers.org](http://crime-stoppers.org) to give to our mission.



**CRIME STOPPERS OF HOUSTON**

P.O. Box 541654  
Houston, TX 77254  
(713) 521-4600

[www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org)

