

CRIME WATCH

A Newsletter by Crime Stoppers of Houston
August 2020



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

WELCOME

Crime Stoppers of Houston continues to be the one of the nation's leading public safety programs regarding victims' rights, community, and school safety even through the COVID-19 crisis.

Since March, we have been running our events and presentations virtually on ZOOM. You can access past and upcoming events here: <https://crime-stoppers.org/events/>

Additionally, we invite you to follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** to stay up to date on our media appearances and critical conversations with leaders and partners.

Remember, we are all in this together and only by working together can we truly enhance public safety and reduce crime.

Best regards,

Rania Mankarious
Chief Executive Officer, Crime Stoppers of Houston

Andy Kahan
Director of Victim Services & Advocacy

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LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

One of the key components of victim advocacy is being able to enact legislative changes to enhance victim’s rights and public safety. Last session, we were able to pass into law what is now known as **The Sir Romeo Bill**. Usually for every piece of legislation there is always a catalyst for change and little 4 year-old Sir Romeo’s case merited crafting a new statute. Here is the backstory that led to the creation of the ‘Sir Romeo Law’:

- In May 2018, 4 year-old Sir Romeo Milan was indiscriminately shot while watching TV with his grandmother by a stray bullet.
- He spent over six months in the hospital recovering. Upon recovery, his family was apprehensive about him returning to the same residence where he was shot.
- I was contacted by Sir Romeo’s family to see if they qualify for relocation expenses under the Crime Victim Compensation Fund.
- Sadly, I told them only two categories of victimization qualify for relocation expenses: Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. I advised them we needed to enact a Bill to create a Law to allow families like theirs to become eligible for relocation expenses.
- My research indicated no other State had such a statute. State Representative Garnet Coleman and Senator Boris Miles agreed to sponsor the Bill.
- Texas became the first State in the nation to enact a law allowing families whose children were the victims of attempted murder to apply for relocation funds.
- Sir Romeo’s legacy will last for eternity for being a positive catalyst for change.



Pictured above:
Director of Victim Services **Andy Kahan** discussing the rising crime rates, repeat offenders and bond reform with ABC13 reporter, Mycah Hatfield at Crime Stoppers of Houston headquarters.

2021 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

- Enhance Criminal Penalties for defendants convicted of the offense Deadly Conduct when it involves '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.


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

	THROUGH JUNE 2020	SINCE 1980
Cases Solved	188	35,581
Suspects Arrested	121	26,930
Tipsters Paid	130	23,226
Paid in Rewards	\$147,600	\$12,270,560
Seized/Recovered Property & Drugs	\$184,248	\$196,864,694

TYPE OF CRIME	THROUGH JUNE 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	30	4,535
Theft	13	1,671
Narcotics	16	4,642
Sex Crimes-Children	6	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



121

SUSPECTS
ARRESTED



130

TIPSTERS PAID



\$147,600

PAID IN
REWARDS



\$184,248

SEIZED/
RECOVERED
PROPERTY &
DRUGS

Through June 2020

HARRIS COUNTY CRIME TRENDS

FEATURED CASES

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.

In July 2020, two defendants were charged with Murder and Capital Murder. Both victims were murdered in cases involving domestic violence. Both defendants were out in the community on multiple bonds and had violated their conditions of bond. The timelines of these cases are outlined below.

CITYWIDE CRIME STATISTICS

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

Between May 19, 2020 - July 21, 2020

we have seen:

- 23% **increase** in murder
- 2% **decrease** in burglary - commercial
- 15% **decrease** in robbery - commercial
- 21% **decrease** in sexual assault cases
- 24% **increase** in aggravated assault cases



50 Since 2018, over 50 people have been killed in Harris County by defendants on Felony bonds, multiple bonds or PR bonds.

BREAKDOWN OF DEFENDENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR 53 MURDERS AND RELATED OFFENSES

- 11 Defendants out on PR bond
- 4 Defendants out on felony bond
- 10 Defendants out on multiple felony bonds
- 4 Defendants were on deferred adjudication and felony bond simultaneously
- 3 Defendants are on parole, 1 is a fugitive
- 3 Defendants are wanted fugitives
- 1 Defendant charged with murder received felony bond while on probation, defendant charged with second murder and is currently a wanted fugitive

BOND REFORM UPDATE

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.

How is this happening? From our perspective, this is the crux of the problem: Misdemeanor court judges are bound by a Federal Court ruling that removes cash bail for most defendants charged with misdemeanor offenses. District court judges who handle felony cases are not. This means, when a defendant is released on a felony bond and then arrested on a new charge, the district judge has the discretion whether or not to revoke the original bond or grant a new bond giving the defendant the opportunity to be returned to the community.

Time and time again we are seeing the same defendants being arrested for violent crimes including murder and yet are still being granted and released on a new bond.

Over 40 defendants released on either felony bond, multiple bonds and or a PR bond have been charged with Capital Murder, Murder, Intoxicated Manslaughter and Failure to Stop and Render Aid - Fatality in less than 2 years in Harris County.

UNSOLVED CASES FEATURED ONLINE

Visit 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.



April 2020

The Murder of Chi Le Timeline

January 2020

- Curtis Holliday granted a felony bond in for Continuous Family Assault of Chi Le

April 2020

- While on felony bond, Holliday charged with violating a protective order against Chi Le. Several bond violation reports were filed in court, however his bond was not revoked.
- Ms. Le warned officials that if she went missing, the offender would be responsible for her disappearance.
- Holliday removes his ankle monitor; Chi Le goes missing.

May 2020

- Chi Le's body found murdered in a commercial freezer at the business address of Curtis Holliday.
- Her two small children no longer have a mother.

July 2020

- Curtis Holliday charged with the Murder of Chi Le.

July 2020

The Murder of Kimberly Robinson Timeline

November 2019

- The offender was granted a PR (Personal Recognizance) Bond for Assault of a Family Member in November 2019.

April 2020

- The offender granted another PR Bond for the same offense.
- The offender was granted a Felony Bond for Tampering with a Government Record four days later.

May 2020

- The District Attorney's Office stated in court documents the defendant was a threat to the community and was a flight risk. Despite the warnings, the defendant was still allowed to post bond.

July 2020

- Kimberly Robinson shot to death while in bed. Kimberly's 4 year-old daughter was also shot but survived. Kimberly's 5 children no longer have a mother.
- Cedgadrick Harris is charged with the Capital Murder of Kimberly Robinson.

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



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



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

**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 to give to our mission.



CRIME STOPPERS OF HOUSTON

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

www.crime-stoppers.org

