WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JEFFREY SPAULDING
CHIEF OF POLICE

MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Westminster Police Department Launches Anonymous Crime Tip Texting Program

The Westminster Police Department has recently launched "tip411", an internet-based tool that enables the public to text message a completely anonymous tip to police, and lets the police respond back creating a two-way anonymous "chat".

Reserved exclusively for public safety purposes and powered by CitizenObserver, a St. Paul MN company, "tip411" puts a powerful new crime fighting tool into the hands of our community for all ages and demographics.

"We're proud to be part of a national program that police agencies in more than 27 states across the country are using" says Chief Jeff Spaulding. "This new capability will help our citizens play a more active role in keeping their neighborhoods safe, engaging our younger citizens in the process. It will also save the Police Department time and resources by closing cases in a more efficient and timely manner."

Anyone with a cell phone can now send an anonymous tip to the Westminster Police Department by texting the word **TIPWPD** and the tip information to **847411** (tip411). *Anonymous email tips can also be submitted to the Police Department's website at www.westgov.com/police. Click on the "Suspicious Activity" link on the Police Department website and provide the requested information.*

IMPORTANT NOTE - "tip411" should not be utilized for the reporting of crimes in progress or other emergencies. Those events should be reported to the police immediately utilizing the 911 phone system.

"tip411" is 100% anonymous. Citizen Observer's technology removes all identifying information before the Police Department receives it so there's no way to identify the sender. According to Chief Spaulding, "this texting capability is yet another tool in our toolbox for creating safer communities. It will be particularly useful in reaching out to our younger citizens who are more tech savvy. When someone with information is afraid to come forward, or simply feels like they don't want to get involved directly with the police, this can be a great way to pass on information to the authorities without fear of retribution".

Anyone with questions about this new tool should contact Captain Pete D'Antuono, Commander of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, at (410) 848-3915.

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To send an anonymous tip via text message to the Westminster Police Department, text the keyword TIPWPD and your tip to 847411 (tip411)