KYLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

Date: July 17, 2013
To: Jeff Barnett; Chief of Police
From: Sgt. Tracy Vrana
Ref: Citizen Observer tips411 Press Release

The Kyle Police Department Launches the Kyle Alert Network

The Kyle Police Department is launching The Kyle Alert Network, a new interactive way to keep the community connected and informed through opt-in e-mail, text message and web published public safety alerts. The new initiative will also enable the public to report suspicious activities easily through the tip411 anonymous text messaging code.

Interested persons can sign up for The Kyle Alert Network for free via a dedicated web page link on the Kyle Police Department website at www.cityofkyle.com/police. Through this website, The Kyle Police Department will provide information to help maintain and improve community safety.

"The Kyle Alert Network is a great tool that will help or police officers receive crime tips quicker while also allowing residents to stay abreast of suspicious activities in their area," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "The more residents that subscribe to this service, the more effective it will be. I hope we all subscribe to the Kyle Alert Network"

The Kyle Alert Network, is available at www.CityofKyle.com, simply click on the Online Services pull-down menu and look for the Kyle Alert Network link.

Subscribers can sign up to receive alerts from the Kyle Police Department via e-mail or as a text message to a cell phone. They can also opt to receive neighborhood only or citywide alerts, as well as surrounding city alerts that are on the "CitizenObserver" alert system.

The other component of this new technology is the Tip411 program, which will enable the public to submit anonymous tips to the Police Department via text messaging. While this is not a replacement for dialing 911 in an emergency, this technology will allow interested persons to communicate potentially helpful information.

Because it's 100% anonymous, subscribers can maintain the integrity of their privacy from messages sent to the tip411 system. This is accomplished through CitizenObserver's technology which removes all identifying information before the Kyle Police Department see's it so there's no way to identify the sender.

The tipster simply texts **KYLEPD** and their message tip to 847411 (tip411). When police receive the message, they can respond to the tipster who will continue to remain anonymous. Again, the Kyle Police Department has no way to access the identity of the individual reporting the information.

For questions about the Kyle Alert Network, please contact Sgt. Tracy Vrana with the Kyle Police Department 512.268.0859 or go to www.cityofkyle.com/police to sign up today.

KYLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

About CitizenObserver
CitizenObserver, a St. Paul, MN company founded in 2000, provides web based alerting tools to law enforcement, education, and public safety agencies in over 40 states.

Sgt. T. Vrana
Special Services Bureau