

Medina Police Department

Subject: Confidential Sources of Information	Policy Number: 2080	Confidential Informants 2080
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Personnel: Sworn Personnel		
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2080.1 – INTRODUCTION

The department recognizes that criminal activity in the community is diverse and fluid, and that information regarding it is necessary, therefore, departmental personnel may solicit and use information from citizen sources, regardless of their walks of life, according to the guidelines set forth in this policy.

2080.2 - VALUE OF CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

Our purpose for using confidential sources include: making information more rapidly available; gathering information from sources not readily available to the department; communicating with criminal suspects; and making observations or performing assignments in localities where a known person would not be immediately suspected. Many people who give information have been victims or witnesses of crimes or may have a strong desire to aid law enforcement. However, there are others who are motivated purely by self-interests. With such diversity of individuals providing information, it is necessary in all cases to evaluate the validity of information supplied and try to determine its accuracy.

2080.3 - INDIVIDUAL OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Whenever a person has been identified as a potential source of information, the officer to whom the source is responsible will evaluate the utilization of information received with regard to ethical and legal standards.
- B. If the source is the subject of an investigation and is using information to negotiate improvement of his/her position, the responsible officer must determine what terms are expected. For example: Does the source expect to commit crimes with immunity from arrest? Are charges expected to be dismissed or reduced? Is there an expectation of pay? Is there an expectation of police protection after the investigation is concluded? Is the investigation consistent with department policies?

2080.4 - SOURCE'S IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION

Sources will sometimes offer to exchange information for immunity or release. Such immunity may only be granted by judicial proceeding. The officer will follow established guidelines in negotiating immunity and release in accordance with the County or City Attorney's procedures.

2180.5 – ENTRAPMENT

Entrapment is defined as an act by an officer which induces a person to commit a crime not contemplated by that person for the purpose of arranging a criminal prosecution against that person. However, it is permissible for officers to "set a trap" by solicitation and affording the opportunity for the person to commit offenses which he/she was predisposed to commit.

2180.6 - SOURCE RELIABILITY

- A. As a partial basis for establishing the reliability of a citizen source, the following information will be considered:
1. The source's reputation with the department;
 2. The number of times the source has previously provided reliable information;
 3. The number of arrests or search warrants based on past information provided by the source;
and
 4. The source's motivation for supplying the information.
- B. However, the preferred means by which information will be shown to be reliable is by surveillance of the source when he/she is actively participating for the police. Since this is not always possible, the source's information will be compared with information provided by established reliable sources and supported with as much physical evidence as possible.