



# National Homicide Reporting & Tipline Survey: San Francisco Department of Police Accountability

Prepared for the San Francisco Police Commission

Department of Police Accountability

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At the request of the Police Commission, the DPA researched how police departments in other jurisdictions run homicide/cold case tip lines. Below is a chart summarizing our research as well as findings from a survey we sent to ten similarly situated jurisdictions.

Jurisdiction(s)	Reporting System	Requirements	Reward
San Francisco	SF Charter Sec. 10.100-306	Leads to a conviction. Bars tips from those responsible for crime and is at the discretion of the Chief of Police.	\$50,000 to \$250,000 Two tiers: 1. Less than \$100,000, requires the Chief's approval. 2. Above \$100,000 requires Board of Supervisors approval.
Philadelphia	Philadelphia Police Department <a href="#">Directive 8.13</a>	Leads to an arrest <b>and conviction</b> . Bars tips from anyone involved in criminal activity.	Up to \$20,000 for homicide cases, \$500 for illegally carrying a firearm, and \$10,000 for cases involving shootings within 500 feet of a school.
Los Angeles	<a href="#">LA County Ordinance Chapter 4.50</a>	Leads to apprehension <b>or</b> conviction.	\$10,000 maximum paid by the discretionary funds of each member of the Board of Supervisors.
District of Columbia	<a href="#">MPD Rewards</a>	Leads to an arrest <b>and conviction</b> .	Up to \$25,000. Federal partners pledge additional reward money.
New York San Diego* San Jose* Chicago Houston* New Orleans	Crime Stoppers	Tip results in arrest and <b>filing charges</b> against an offender.	Up to \$1,000 paid by third party. Sponsors can increase reward amounts.  Note: New Orleans authorizes up to \$5,000.
Phoenix*	Silent Witness	Tip results in arrest and <b>filing charges</b> against an offender.	Up to \$1,000 paid by third party. Sponsors can increase reward amounts.
Sacramento	TipSoft	Tip results in arrest and <b>filing charges</b> against	Up to \$1,000 paid by third party. Sponsors can

		an offender.	increase reward amounts.
Oakland	Oakland previously had a Crime Stoppers tip line, but there is no information available online.		

\* Notes a direct response to the survey.

**Notable Findings:**

- San Francisco offers the highest Homicide/Cold Case reward of all city and county reward programs. For context, the SFPD’s highest reward is equal to the FBI’s minimum reward for the “Ten Most Wanted Fugitives” at \$250,000.
- The four jurisdictions that participated in our survey reported similar experiences utilizing third-party reporting systems. They acknowledged third-party tip lines as providing a high volume of information and found the tips useful to corroborate known information.
- News articles around the country have questioned the effectiveness of both in-house and third-party tip lines.