



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: October 14, 2025

Title: Reward for Information on Criminal Activity

Background: At the September 23, 2025 City Council meeting, Councilmember Longbrake requested consideration of a reward system for reporting crimes committed within the City of Needles.

City staff conducted research and determined that the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, which provides contracted law enforcement services to the City, currently participates in the We-Tip Anonymous Crime Reporting Program.

We-Tip is a national nonprofit organization that allows the public to confidentially and anonymously report criminal activity. The program offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction based on a successful tip.

Callers wishing to remain anonymous may contact the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463) or submit information online at www.wetip.com.

The program is already available to City of Needles residents through the County's existing contract with We-Tip. Rewards are processed and issued by the County following verification of an arrest and conviction. The amount of the reward varies depending on the severity of the offense.

The Sheriff's Department also offers incident-specific flyers to encourage community participation and can assist the City in promoting the hotline locally.

If the City wishes to establish its own dedicated We-Tip line, the annual cost would be approximately \$3,000. However, calls would still be handled by the Sheriff's Department, and all rewards would continue to be issued through the County program. Establishing a separate City program would therefore be duplicative and could raise confidentiality concerns.

Fiscal Impact: There is no financial impact to the City if it continues utilizing the existing We-Tip program through the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

A dedicated City-specific We-Tip line would cost approximately \$3,000 annually, but it is not recommended at this time since the County program already serves Needles residents and includes incident-specific outreach materials at no cost to the City.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Continue to utilize the existing We-Tip program provided through the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; and
2. Promote community awareness of the anonymous reporting options by sharing hotline information through the City's website, Needles Connect app, and public safety outreach materials.

Submitted By: City Manager Patrick Martinez (on behalf of Council Member Henry Longbrake)

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 10/10/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): Jill Taura

Date: 10/10/2025