FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following press release was written and issued by the Charleston, South Carolina Police Department.

March 8, 2007 – Charleston, SC - The Charleston Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit was awarded "Most Innovative New Crime Prevention Program" for the past year by South Carolina's State Association of Crime Prevention Officers (SACPO). The recognition came last week at SACPO's annual SE Regional Training Conference held in North Myrtle Beach. The specific program cited was the unit's use of the CrimeWeb.net e-mail advisory network to advise residents of recent reported crimes in the many neighborhoods and complexes in the City. http://www.crimeweb.net/details.asp?id=9439

Crime Prevention Sergeant Trevor Shelor explains, "Agencies in other states use the CrimeWeb system mainly to publish urgent advisories of missing persons, pictures of robbery suspects, etc. In addition to this we saw an opportunity to keep an unlimited number of citizens up-to-date on recent reported crimes in their areas. We compile a weekly list of crimes reported to City Police which concern neighborhoods and complexes. They are separated by zip-codes which roughly equal our Patrol Division boundaries ("Teams"). We hope that a citizen who reads of a crime near his or her home will be more likely to take preventive measures to protect his property and to also advise his neighbors to do the same. This would then result in fewer opportunities for the criminals in that area. We released over 250 of these alerts in 2006 alone. We will also expand next week to include additional advisories to the businesses in the community. "

The system is free to citizens. Interested residents can simply log-on to www.CrimeWeb.net , click on "Register" where they enter their e-mail address, a password and the zip-codes they are interested in. Finally, remember to select "Community Information" from the list of advisory types. The actual alerts come without any advertising or pop-ups and the user lists will never be sold. Sgt. Shelor further explains an additional feature, "Once registered, a user can also return to the CrimeWeb.net web-page, "log-in", and select "Search Alerts" to check previous alerts for an area by specific zip-code, time-period, and alert type (again select "Community Information" here). This is especially useful when selecting a neighborhood, street, or complex to live in – the object being to pick a location which appears the least."

View the award at: www.crimeweb.net/details.asp?id=9439

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