



Outreach: News & Announcements

Released by the New Orleans Police Department

NOPD, CRIMESTOPPERS GNO AND ATF NEW ORLEANS ANNOUNCE A MAJOR INCREASE IN REWARD FOR INFORMATION IN MURDER OF HANO OFFICER JAMES BENNETT JR.

Up to \$35,000 reward available for information leading to arrest and conviction of the individuals involved

NEW ORLEANS-Today, NOPD Superintendent Michael Harrison, Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans President & CEO Darlene Cusanza and ATF New Orleans Division Special Agent in Charge Constance Hester announced a major increase in the reward for information in the murder of Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) Officer James Bennett, Jr. The ATF is now offering up to a \$25,000 cash reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the individuals who are responsible for the murder. Coupled with the Crimestoppers GNO reward, the cash reward now stands at up to \$35,000. Officer Bennett was found shot to death inside of his marked police unit while he was on patrol on May 24, 2015 in the 2300 block of Erato Street. Detectives have not identified a suspect at this time.

"Officer Bennett's death was a senseless act of violence that affected every law enforcement officer in this city," **said NOPD Superintendent Michael Harrison.** "The NOPD has been working aggressively to solve this crime with our local, state and federal partners, but we need the public's help. Someone knows who is responsible for this murder and today we are coming together as one family to ask the community to help us bring closure to Officer Bennett's family. I want to thank the ATF for stepping up to provide the financial resources for this reward."

"Somewhere, someone in the community has the information needed to bring those responsible for the murder of HANO Police Officer James Bennett to Justice and it's time to come forward," **said ATF Special Agent in Charge Constance Hester.** "When a police officer is killed, the entire community is affected by the loss of the officer."

"Whenever an officer's life is taken, Crimestoppers immediately increases our standard reward up to \$10,000," **said Crimestoppers GNO President and CEO Darlene Cusanza**. "We are happy to be able to offer this resource and promote Officer Bennett's case over the past several months. We thank the tipsters who have called and are hopeful that with the added funds now available through the ATF combined with the Crimestoppers reward, we can find much needed closure for Officer Bennett's family and his brothers in law enforcement.

"The City of New Orleans lost a valued member of the HANO community last year with the tragic death of Officer Bennett," **said HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner**. "HANO remains committed to doing all we can to make sure those responsible for Officer Bennett's murder are brought to justice."

Homicide Detective Shawn Jenkins is investigating the incident and can be contacted at 658-5300.

Citizens with information that can help solve this crime are asked to call Crimestoppers at 822-1111 or toll-free 1-877-903-STOP. You could receive a cash reward of up to \$10,000 for the information leading only to the arrest, except on homicides, where Crimestoppers will pay half of the reward upon the arrest and half on the indictment of the responsible person(s). You do not have to give your name nor testify to receive the reward but you must contact Crimestoppers directly with your information. Citizens can also submit an anonymous tip online to Crimestoppers at www.crimestoppersgno.org



Crimestoppers Press Conference - Tuesday, January 19, 2016