

# WEEKLY FLASH

## Bay Area Council Launches Crime Fighting Program

Surrounded by more than a dozen women and men in blue, Bay Area Council President Jim Wunderman “never felt so safe” at Monday’s press conference where the Council formally announced the new [Bay Area Crime Stoppers](#) program to the media. We were joined by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and law enforcement heads from across the region. Bay Area Crime Stoppers battles the three factors that often prevent witnesses from coming forward: apathy, fear of retribution and not knowing whom to call. Bay Area Crime Stoppers intends to solve this problem with a regional anonymous tip-line program – 1-800-222-TIPS – that pays rewards between \$500 and \$2,000 for information that leads to the arrest and indictment of persons responsible for committing felony crimes. The rewards help with the apathy, the anonymity helps with the fear of reprisal, and the single, easy-to-remember number lets people know where to call. We launched the program in response to the results of the Council’s [annual poll](#) of 600 Bay Area residents that saw crime suddenly rise to the third worst problem facing the region. Steve Buster, Council member and President and CEO of The Mechanics Bank, chairs the program. In order to operate effectively, Crime Stoppers requires collaboration between business leaders, government officials, law enforcement and the media. If this fully-packed press conference was any indication, this program will undoubtedly be a success.



Coverage of the story includes the following stories: [KPIX](#), [KTVU](#), [KGO](#), [KNTV](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Oakland Tribune](#), [Mercury News](#), [Times-Herald](#), and the [San Francisco Business Times](#).

## Article of the Week

And then there were five.... The *Sacramento Bee* covers [Karen Bass’s ascendancy](#) to Speaker of the Assembly on Wednesday evening. The ‘Big 5’ leaders of California will soon be: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger; Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles); Assm. Republican Leader Mike Villines (R-Clovis); Senate pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento); and, Sen. Republican Leader Dave Cogdill (R-Modesto).



## Quote of the Week

*"I've never entered a political contest with the idea that it couldn't be won."* – Former San Francisco Supervisor and mayoral candidate, Matt Gonzales, [upon his selection as Ralph Nader’s](#) Green Party running mate for the November 2008 presidential campaign.

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