

## MEDIA RELEASE

### 5/20/09 District Attorney Hillar Moore announces new arrest warrant initiatives

District Attorney Hillar C. Moore, III announced a partnership with Crime Stoppers involving three new initiatives to reduce the number of outstanding arrest warrants for persons wanted in the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Deadbeat Parent Warrants: In conjunction with District Attorney, Hillar C. Moore, III, East Baton Rouge Sheriff, Sid Gautreaux, and the judges of the Juvenile Court, Judge Pamela Johnson and Judge Kathleen Richey, Crime Stoppers will begin posting rewards for fugitive warrants for parents who have failed to appear and pay the child support they owe. A trial effort, begun with the Sheriff's office since Hillar Moore took office has resulted in the location and apprehension of 10 of the initial 15 persons sought. These 10 parents owed a combined total of more than \$390,000. Every two weeks, 15 more wanted parents will be added to the list of those being sought. In addition to these local efforts, warrants for parents wanted outside of the jurisdiction of East Baton Rouge parish will be placed into the FBI's National Crime Information Center database for location and recovery nationwide. Cases in which the arrearages owed exceed more than \$15,000 will also face criminal prosecution in addition to possible jail time for judicial contempt. Currently, parents in East Baton Rouge are delinquent in paying more than three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000) owed in child support.

Felony Fugitive Warrants: In conjunction with District Attorney, Hillar C. Moore, III, and East Baton Rouge Sheriff, Sid Gautreaux, Crime Stoppers will begin posting rewards for fugitive warrants for criminal defendants who have failed to appear in the Courts of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. A trial effort, begun with the Sheriff's office last fall, has resulted in the apprehension and location of 45 of the initial 90 persons sought. Every two weeks, 15 more wanted felony offenders will be added to the list of those being sought. In addition to local efforts, fugitive warrants for parents wanted outside of the jurisdiction of East Baton Rouge parish will be placed into the FBI's National Crime Information Center database for location and recovery nationwide. Currently, the Sheriff has more than 95,000 outstanding warrants issued by the courts of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Traffic Warrants: In conjunction with District Attorney, Hillar C. Moore, III, and East Baton Rouge Sheriff, Sid Gautreaux, Crime Stoppers will begin posting fugitive warrants for defendant's who have failed to appear for traffic offenses in the Courts of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. When an individual fails to appear for a traffic offense, the Court issues a warrant for their arrest and notifies the Office of Motor Vehicles to initiate suspension their driver's license. Beginning in June, 2009, Crime Stoppers will notify the public of outstanding traffic warrants for traffic offenders using all of Crime Stopper's media outlets, including television, newspapers, and electronic websites. The initial posting will consist of all persons whose last names begin with the letter "A" who have missed a court appearance in the last three years. Currently, the Sheriff estimates that there are approximately 40,000 traffic warrants outstanding.

Questions concerning any of the above initiatives may be directed to District Attorney Hillar C. Moore, III, Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, or Sid Newman, Executive Director of Crime Stoppers.

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[www.ebrso.org](http://www.ebrso.org)

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