See it, Say it, Send it App

Raider Report App Empowering Students to Report Security Concerns Not Just Suspicious Behavior
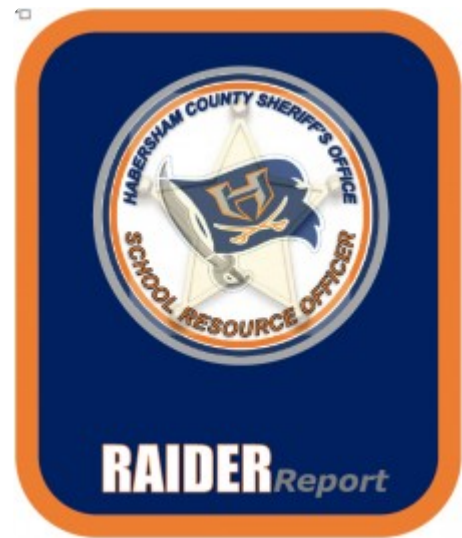
The Habersham County Sheriff, Joey Terrell, and School Superintendent, Matthew Cooper, have taken their school reporting app to the next level by empowering students to report more than suspicious behavior. They've added the ability for students to report security concerns such as unlocked doors, broken fencing, inoperable security lighting and more.

Mount Airy, GA, April 30, 2019 (Newswire.com) - Habersham County Sheriff Joey Terrell and Superintendent Matthew Cooper rolled out the 'Raider Report' app, an anonymous reporting smart device application that is powered by the 'See it, Say it, Send it' app technology, just after the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The app, implemented at Habesham Central High School, the Habersham Ninth Grade Academy and all three middle schools in the county, was made available to students for free through the Android and iOS platforms. It allows the reporting of suspicious or problematic behavior. The tip information is funneled directly to administrators and the School Resource Officers (SRO) assigned to the particular school the reporting student attends. The app also allows for two-way, real-time communication with the reporting student (anonymously or self-identified) should further details be needed to conduct a thorough and complete follow-up.

In January 2019, after more than three months of usage and significant tip data, SRO Lieutenant Murray Kogod and School Safety Director Adam Bagwell discussed the future of the 'Raider Report' with its developer and retired Law Enforcement Officer, CEO Kevin Angell of Crowdsourced Geofencing Solutions. Kogod, Bagwell, and Angell agreed that the current platform is only reactive insomuch that students are reporting behavior that has already occurred or is in progress. Not content with the status quo, the team set out to take the app to the next level by adding a proactive, preventive mechanism that gives students the ability to report safety concerns that could result in future problems with the hope of addressing those concerns prior to any problem coming to fruition.

Kogod and Bagwell, working with the leadership of Sheriff Terrell and Mr. Cooper, came up with a brilliant initiative to include students in school security. "We wanted the app to capture ongoing, student-driven, physical security assessments by encouraging them to report unlocked doors, broken fencing, inoperable security lighting and any other area where they believe potentially unsafe activity could take place", said Lt Kogod. The concept was to add the ability to document and report a 'Security Concern' within the app and deliver the information to Director Bagwell who oversees the school campus safety. Bagwell said, "Students are already taking action to report suspicious or problematic behavior. Now they will be assisting in implementing prevention measures that will reduce the opportunity for those activities from even starting."

Angell and the development team at Crowdsourced Geofencing Solutions (CGS), a Florida based and veteran-owned app development business, got right to work. "As a retired law enforcement officer formally trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), I loved the idea put forth by the Sheriff, the Superintendent, and their staff", Angell commented. As of early April, CGS added the option to report a 'Security Concern' within the 'Raider Report' along with a workflow process to ensure the proper staff is notified.

Curt Lavarello, Executive Director of the School Safety Advocacy Council and recognized national school security expert, was asked to comment on the student empowerment revolution that is beginning in Habersham County. He said, "Whenever possible, schools should engage students in the school safety process and this app does just that. This is a huge win for school safety." Lavarello recounted a time when he was a School Resource Officer and assigned students Polaroid cameras to document safety concerns. They returned with dozens of pictures that included where drugs were hidden on campus.

Sheriff Terrell and Mr. Cooper agree that individuals subject to daily security measures, like students, are more often the most aware of what works and what doesn't. As adults, we sometimes become complacent or presume that a defective security device has already been reported or will be fixed by "someone else". In most cases where criminal activity takes place, opportunity (such as an unlocked car door) played a significant role. The idea behind the new feature in the 'Raider Report' app is to overcome complacency through and reduce opportunity through easy reporting and student empowerment. While the initiative is geared toward students, both Terrell and Cooper believe a collateral effect will be increased reporting by school staff, visitors and vendors as well.

The Sheriff and Superintendent plan to roll out the new initiative later this month in conjunction with

'What to Look For' examples, discussions, and training so that students can be more aware of their surroundings and how to report security concerns. Based on research throughout the Georgia School System and apps used by schools nationally, Habersham County Schools will be leading the charge on this forward-thinking initiative.

Source: Crowdsourced Geofencing Solutions, LLC

Additional **Links**

- How the App works
- What Students Think About the App

Additional **Images**

Original Source: www.newswire.com