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Kingston starts using new crime alert system

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Associated Press - January 19, 2008 10:25 AM ET

KINGSTON, N.Y. (AP) - Police in Kingston are reaching out to citizens in a new way.

The city's police department is the second in the state to begin using "Citizen Observer," a tool that allows police to send information about crimes or other threats to the community through e-mail and text messages.

It also allows citizens to submit anonymous tips about crime in Kingston, a city of roughly 23,000 about 60 miles south of Albany.

Police in Poughkeepsie began using the system in November and say they have been very pleased by the results. Chief Ronald Knapp says it's a good way to get the word out about criminal activity such as a rash of car break-ins in a specific neighborhood that wouldn't necessarily get the attention of local media.

You can sign up for the program at: <http://www.citizenobserver.com>.

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