

# LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

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100 WEST FIRST STREET, SUITE 134  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4112

(213) 236-1400 PHONE  
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(213) 236-1440 TDD

November 19, 2013

BPC #13-0391

The Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
City Hall, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
c/o City Clerk's Office

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD OFFER ON CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 09-0010-S37

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, November 19, 2013, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

This matter is being forwarded to you for approval.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Silva".

MARIA SILVA  
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

BPC #13-0391

RECEIVED

NOV 05 2013

85

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

POLICE COMMISSION

November 1, 2013

5.6

REVIEWED

TO: Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

  
RICHARD M. JEFANK  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

11/5/13  
DATE

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD OFFER ON CITY COUNCIL  
FILE NO. 09-0010-S37

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the attached Application for Special Reward Payment.
2. That the Board TRANSMIT to the Mayor and City Council the Application for Special Reward Payment for review and approval.

DISCUSSION

On June 13, 2008, Christopher Taylor was standing in front of his residence talking with a friend when a carload of rival gang members drove by, shot, and killed him. Taylor's friend was also wounded by errant gunfire. Mr. Taylor had recently moved to Los Angeles from Ohio to live with his mother to attend classes at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Neither Taylor or his friend were gang members and the incident was unprovoked. Christopher Taylor was 19 years of age.

Detectives Richard Gordon, Serial No. 24262, and Brian Calicchia, Serial No. 36369, Criminal Gang/Homicide Division, conducted an extensive investigation. The investigation led detectives to believe that the "Black P-Stone" blood gang was responsible for the murder. Unfortunately, detectives were unable to find sufficient admissible evidence to make an arrest after all viable leads were exhausted. On May 22, 2009, the Los Angeles City Council offered a reward of \$50,000 as an inducement for persons to come forward with information on this murder.

In February 2010, a witness came forward to provide information on this murder. The witness stated he spoke directly to the shooter on this case. Subsequently, the witness provided enough information for detectives to identify "Black P-Stone" gang member Xavier Birdsong as the suspect. The witness gave a compelling statement describing an encounter he had with Birdsong in which Birdsong admitted to the shooting of Mr. Taylor and provided details of the incident. Detectives were able to corroborate the details with other witnesses and physical evidence at the crime scene.

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

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On August 25, 2010, detectives presented this case to Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Larry Droeger, Hardcore Gang Division. Based on the statement provided by the witness, additional witnesses, and other evidence, DDA Droeger filed (1) count of Penal Code (PC) Section 187 (A) (murder), (1) count of Attempt 187 PC (attempt murder), (1) count 12022.53(d) PC (gun enhancement), and (1) count of 186.22 PC (gang enhancement) against Xavier Birdsong. On August 27, 2010, Birdsong was arrested by the Fugitive Task Force.

In August 2013, the jury trial commenced. Prior to testifying, the witness received threats from "Black P-Stone" gang members within his own family. Fearing for his safety, and the safety of his family, the witness; along with his mother and two brothers were immediately relocated to a safe place. Although fearful and apprehensive, he testified truthfully under oath against Xavier Birdsong, spending two days on the witness stand. As a result of the detectives investigation and the testimony provided by the witnesses, on August 12, 2013, the jury found Xavier Birdsong guilty of all the counts filed against him.

It is the opinion of the investigating detectives that the witness is eligible for the reward offer. The information he provided led to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the defendant; Xavier Birdsong. Based on these facts, it is requested that the reward funds be paid to the witness listed on the attached Application for Special Reward Payment.

The witness name was not included in this document to protect the identity and safety of the witness.

Should you have any questions, please contact Captain Thomas E. McMullen, Commanding Officer, Criminal Gang/Homicide Division, at (213) 485-4341.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK  
Chief of Police

BOARD OF  
POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
Approved *November 19, 2012*  
Secretary *Maria Silva*

Attachments

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
**APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL REWARD PAYMENT**

DISTRIBUTION  
ORIG -- LAPD  
DUPE -- City Clerk  
DUPE -- Claimant

Neither the filing nor submitting of information, nor the receipt or consideration thereof by the City, shall establish legal claim to, or right of recovery of, any reward offered. The provision of payment shall be governed by Chapter 12, Division 19 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

1. PRINT NAME OF APPLICANT:  
Last Witness First Middle

2. ADDRESS: (Street) (City) (State - Zip)  
Daytime Phone & Contact Person  
Confidential in care of I/O

3. TODAY'S DATE: 10/16/13 4. OCCUPATION:

5. DRIVER'S LICENSE # or CALIF ID #: Confidential in care of I/O 6. SOCIAL SECURITY #: (For payment purposes)

**DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES: (Fill in or mark ALL that apply)**

NOTE: The applicant is responsible for providing ALL of the following required information. A claim that does not provide the following required information may be disapproved for insufficient information.

7. DATE OF INCIDENT: 06 / 13 / 2008 8. TIME OF INCIDENT: 1010 AM x PM  
NOON MIDNIGHT

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 3611 7th Avenue, Los Angeles, California

TYPE OF CRIME / INVESTIGATION: Murder

9. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: The victim, Christopher Taylor, was standing in front of his residence talking with a friend when a carload of gang members  
10. drove by, shot and killed him.

11. x APPLICANT SIGNATURE 12. PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (under 18 years)

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE -- FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Name: Brian Calicchia Serial No. 36369 Agency LAPD/CGHD Phone # (213) 485-4341

NAME OF VICTIM OR CASE:  
Christopher Taylor

RECOMMENDATION:  APPROVAL  DISAPPROVAL INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST ATTACHED:  Yes  No  
 INSUFFICIENT INVOLVEMENT  
 INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

BRIEF EXPLANATION OR COMMENTS: The witness was instrumental in providing detectives with information that led to the arrest of the suspect. The witness testified truthfully under oath at both the preliminary hearing and jury trial. Due to the cooperation of the witness and testimony given, a very violent and dangerous individual was identified, apprehended, charged, and convicted of these crimes.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
REWARD CLAIM CHECKLIST**

**This form must be submitted with the Department's recommendation concerning payment of the reward.  
One checklist must be submitted for each claimant.**

COUNCIL FILE NUMBER: 09-0010-S37

DR/AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 080317907

TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Murder

REWARD AMOUNT: \$ 50,000

REWARD EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/22/2009

REWARD EXPIRATION DATE: 11/22/2009

INFO. REC'D WHILE REWARD IN EFFECT:  YES  NO  
(circle one)

DATE REC'D: 2/12/2010

CLAIMANT: Witness  
(Name or "Anonymous." If multiple anonymous claimants, indicate as "Claimant A, Claimant B," etc.).

CLAIMANT'S OCCUPATION: Driver

CASE INVEST. BY: LAPD CGHD  
(Div/Section)

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator(s) Assigned: Brian Calicchia  
Richard Gordon

Telephone: ( 213 ) 485-4341

Telephone: ( 213 ) 485-4341

(Name and Serial No.)

The above claimant is  ELIGIBLE  NOT ELIGIBLE to receive payment of a reward pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative code Division 19, Chapter 12, Sections 19.120 through 19.129.4.

**Reason(s) for claimant being NOT ELIGIBLE to receive payment**

Claimant is a City officer, employee, or public officer or employee whose employment includes duties of law enforcement.

Claimant obtained information for a relative who is a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee, and that person obtained the information in the course of his/her employment.

Claimant is a dependent of a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee whose duties include law enforcement

Claimant has not provided continued cooperation within the criminal justice system relative to the case for which the offer of reward is made.

Claimant has already been compensated by his/her employer or in some other manner for the actions which are the bases for

Claimant is co-suspect in the crime for which the reward is offered.

The suspect would benefit from payment of the reward to the claimant.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The claimant is acting as an agent for the suspect.

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(If additional space is needed, use back of form.)

APPROVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ RANK/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_