

LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

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POLICE COMMISSIONERS

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
POLICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
100 WEST FIRST STREET, SUITE 134
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4112

(213) 236-1400 PHONE
(213) 236-1410 FAX
(213) 236-1440 TDD

April 10, 2014

BPC #14-0083

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.
11-0010-~~5~~29

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 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

MARIA SILVA
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

APR 10 2014 8:22

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED

APR 01 2014

POLICE COMMISSION

March 30, 2014
5.6

REVIEWED

TO: Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD OFFER ON CITY COUNCIL
FILE NO. 11-0010-529

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 Friday, May 13, 2011, at approximately 2:20 a.m., 67-year old Alonzo Ester was driving into his driveway at the 4200 block of Hillcrest Drive in the City of Los Angeles. Ester was returning home after closing his business; a nearby nightclub. Upon his arrival, and while still seated inside his vehicle, Ester was shot multiple times by an unknown suspect. After the shooting, the suspect entered into the victim's car and searched the victim's pockets as the victim sat in the driver's seat mortally wounded. The suspect exited and ran northbound from the location to an awaiting vehicle. Area residents called 911, and the Los Angeles City Police and Fire Departments responded to the scene. Alonzo Ester was transported to University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Ronald Reagan Medical Center. While at the hospital, Ester succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at 3:13 a.m.

Detective Robert Lait, Serial No. 34117, Criminal Gang Homicide Division, was assigned to investigate this murder. Very little information was received regarding the identity of the suspect, until after a monetary reward of \$50,000 was offered by the Los Angeles City Council on May 25, 2011. On July 1, 2011, a witness came forward and told the detective that Dennis Brown had admitted to being the killer. Subsequently, detectives were able to corroborate and confirm her information was accurate. The witness agreed to testify in Superior Court, Department 109, Case No. BA392841. Ultimately, the defendant pled guilty to charges of Manslaughter and Attempted Robbery, and was sentenced to 16 years in State prison.

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

Page 2

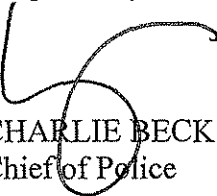
5.6

It is the opinion of the investigating detective and Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Turk – Hardcore Gangs Division, that the witness is eligible for the reward offer. The information she provided led to the identification, apprehension, and subsequent plea/conviction of defendant Dennis Brown. 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 Lieutenant Jeff S. Nolte, Acting Commanding Officer, Criminal Gang/Homicide Division, at (213) 485-4341.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

Attachments

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Approved *April 8, 2014*
Secretary *Maria Silva*

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

March 20, 2014
1.1

TO: All Concerned Personnel

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

During my absence from command the following Staff Officers will assume the responsibilities of the Office of the Chief of Police.

Deputy Chief Stephen Jacobs	Saturday, March 22, 2014, 1200 hours, through Sunday, March 23, 2014, 0600 hours
Assistant Chief Sandy Jo MacArthur	Sunday, March 23, 2014, 0601 hours, through Monday, March 24, 2014, 2400 hours
Assistant Chief Michel Moore	Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 0001 hours, through Friday, March 28, 2014, 2400 hours

I will be available for notifications through the Acting Staff Officers.



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

c: Mayor's Office
Police Commission
Chief of Staff
Office of Operations
Office of Administrative Services
Office of Special Operations
Geographic Bureaus
RACR

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: 03/24/14 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: 05-13-11 8. TIME OF INCIDENT: 0220 x AM PM
LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 4266 Hillcrest Drive, Los Angeles, CA
TYPE OF CRIME / INVESTIGATION : Murder

9. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: The victim, Alonzo Ester, was shot to death during an attempted robbery

10.

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: Robert Lait Serial No. 34117 Agency LAPD/CGHD Phone # (213) 485-4341
NAME OF VICTIM OR CASE: ALONZO ESTER

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

BRIEF EXPLANATION OR COMMENTS: The witness provided the identity of the suspect who committed the murder. The witness was willing to testify under oath at both the preliminary hearing and jury trial. The suspect subsequently pled guilty to Manslaughter and Attempted Robbery. Due to the cooperation of the witness, 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: 11-0010-529

DR/AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 110312432

TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Murder

REWARD AMOUNT: \$ 50,000

REWARD EFFECTIVE DATE: May 25, 2011

REWARD EXPIRATION DATE: November 25, 2011

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

DATE REC'D: July 1, 2011

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

CLAIMANT'S OCCUPATION: _____

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

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT: _____

Investigator(s) Assigned: Robert Lait

Telephone: (213) 485-4341

(Name and Serial No.)

Telephone: _____

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 _____

Mayor's Time Stamp
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
RECEIVED
2011 MAY 26 AM 11:36
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

City Clerk's Time Stamp
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2011 MAY 26 AM 11:27
CITY CLERK
BY _____ DEPUTY

FORTHWITH

SUBJECT TO THE MAYOR'S APPROVAL

COUNCIL FILE NO. 11-0010-S29 COUNCIL DISTRICT _____

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE MAY 25, 2011

RE: REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE IDENTIFICATION, APPREHENSION AND CONVICTION OF THE PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF ALONZO ESTER

LAST DAY FOR MAYOR TO ACT JUN 06 2011
(10 Day Charter requirement as per Charter Section 341)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR MAYOR USE ONLY

APPROVED

✓

*DISAPPROVED

*Transmit objections in writing pursuant to Charter Section 341

DATE OF MAYOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL MAY 31 2011



MAYOR

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2011 MAY 31 PM 4:13
BY _____ DEPUTY
CITY CLERK

11-0010-529
08

MOTION

SPECIAL 1

On May 13, 2011, at approximately 2:20 A.M., Alonzo Ester, a sixty-seven year old man, was pulling into his driveway when he was shot and killed by unidentified suspect(s). The suspect(s) then fled the scene in an awaiting vehicle. LAPD is still searching for this suspect(s) and encourages witnesses to come forward, even anonymously, to assist them in their investigation.

The person or persons responsible for this crime represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people of Los Angeles; therefore it is appropriate for the City of Los Angeles to offer a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the death Alonzo Ester.

I THEREFORE MOVE that by adoption of this Motion, the City Council provide an offer of reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the death of Alonzo Ester, a resident of the City of Los Angeles, on May 13, 2011, and in support thereof, make the following findings pursuant to Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code:

1. That the death of Alonzo Ester was caused by the willful misconduct of one or more persons.
2. That this offer of reward is consistent with and taken for the immediate protection of the public peace, health and safety of local residents, as well as visitors to the City, and is consistent with the need to arrest and convict the person or persons who, because of not being apprehended, could by their actions further terrorize and present a continuing and immediate menace to the rights of persons in the City.
3. That what happened to Alonzo Ester is an especially disturbing crime and therefore as a matter of public policy, the City hereby offers a reward as an added inducement for persons to come forward with information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the death of Alonzo Ester.
4. That the sum of \$50,000 shall be the aggregate maximum sum of any payment or payments of a City reward in this instance.
5. That the offer of reward shall be in effect for six months from the date of the advertisement of the reward by the City Clerk.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be directed to cause notices and/or advertisements to be duly published according to the requirements of Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, and to thereby cause the offer of reward to become effective.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be directed to publish the reward notice in "Our Weekly," "LA Watts Times" and "The Los Angeles Sentinel" in addition to the regular publications used by the City Clerk for reward notices, to ensure adequate community notice.

ADOPTED PRESENTED BY

Bernard C. Parks
BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

MAY 25 2011

MAY 25 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

SECONDED BY

[Signature]

TO THE MAYOR FORTHWITH

ADM

ORIGINAL

96

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

JUNE LAGMAY
City Clerk

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
Executive Officer



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

Office of the
CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
General Information - (213) 978-1133
Fax: (213) 978-1040

When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.

www.cityclerk.lacity.org

June 1, 2011

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council File
No. 11-0010-S29, at its meeting held May 25, 2011.


City Clerk
kw

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is used to document any past or future investigative events deemed necessary to control or develop this case.

DATE	TIME	INVESTIGATION	DR	1103-12432
		and had the IFB gang members removed from the club (The Dynasty Club is located in area claimed by IFB) (RL)		
06/28/11	1100	CGHD Dilkes Detective provided Mrs. Burns (victim's neighbor) with a copy of the traffic report. (DD)		
7/1/11	1100	Pacific Area Police Station – Lait/Garrido/An (FBI/20944) Anonymous source of information advises that they heard, second hand, that an individual on parole named Dennis Brown (DOB: 5-12-80) has detailed that he shot the victim during a botched robbery attempt. Information provided included unreleased case information that the victim, though in a Rolls Royce, had an EBT card in his possession. (RL)		
7/5/11	1500	CGHD – Lait Telephonic contact Criminalist II Alyssa Gonzalez for update on DNA processing. (RL)		
7/6/11	1350	CCB (Dept. 46) – Lait Obtained Search Warrant for records related to possible cell phone associated with Dennis Brown. (RL)		
7/7/11	0800	CGHD – Lait Received emailed reports in PDF format detailing results of latent and chemical print analysis. No lift was obtained from the money clip. 6 prints total were recovered from the victim's Rolls Royce. 2 of the prints were identified, and 4 others remain unidentified. (RL)		
	1400	77 th Area Community Room - Various attendees Televised press conference to announce the reward for victim. Channels 7 and 11 present. (RL)		
	1600	CGHD – Lait/Special Agent An Re-canvass crime scene area. Interviewed August Burns (4260 Hillcrest Drive), Thomasina Pleasant (4252 Hillcrest Drive), and Steve Wilson. Card A shown to Burns, who drew similarity to Filler in #4, but advised he was not saying #4 was suspect. Pleasant and Wilson did not see the suspect's face and cannot make any identification. (RL)		
7/12/11	0830	CGHD – Lait Received email notification that no match was made during a manual comparison to finger prints recovered from the victim's vehicle and the suspect Dennis Brown. (RL)		