

CAPTURINGZUBEK

YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IS REQUESTED

***** I NEED YOUR HELP *****

**L.A.P.D. NOT ACKNOWLEDGING REWARD CLAIMANTS
ESSENTIAL HELP THAT LED TO CAPTURE OF DOUBLE
MURDERER!**The Victims: John Lee and Oletta WilliamsWhere: ChatsworthThe killer: Brent ZubekMurder-Discovery: July-August 2011Conviction: January 2015Reward first claimed: Aug 2011Reward Status: Feb 2016 -UNPAID

During the last four years, I have discovered that our reward system does not operate as it should. If not for my own experience detailed in a report to the Police Commission below, I would have never believed that just 1 person can decide if your assistance in an investigation will even be noted. Or an application for reward even submitted on your behalf.

Unlike most, I have kept my interest in the posted reward backed up with video evidence, documentation, phone records, etc. since the moment I became involved in catching a high profile murderer. I was shocked to find out that despite my constant communication and cooperation with the LAPD detectives I assisted. It was them who have misrepresented the risks I took and sacrifices I made while answering the request for the public's help in apprehending a dangerous murderer.

It is still hard for me to believe that a few of those I regarded as leaders, and professionals, have disappointed me as a citizen of this great city in the worst way.
I ask you to review the report below.

Citizen's Assistance Leads to Arrest of Double Murderer

(REWARD-CITY COUNCIL FILE: 11-0010-S40)

REPORT PREPARED BY HARLAN HOBBS

Here you will find a detailed account of what I, a man paralyzed from the chest down, had done to facilitate the capture, and aid in the conviction of a double murderer loose in the SFV known to be looking to kill again.

SUPPORTING VIDEOS CAN BE FOUND HERE ALONG WITH COURTROOM AUDIO

Timeline of events:

May 2011- August 09, 2011

Amy Harder, my former girlfriend, introduced me to her boyfriend Brent Zubek in May 2011. Brent murdered his room-mates, Oletta Jean Williams (28) and John David Lee (43) on July 2, 2011. Oletta was shot 7 times and her fiance John was shot twice, once point blank range in the face.

August 12, 2011

After receiving a tip from, Amy Harder, who witnessed the double homicide, the police discovered the decomposed bodies of Oletta Jean Williams and John David Lee in a trailer, belonging to Amy's boyfriend, Brent Zubek, behind a home on the block of 20400 Lassen Street

August 13, 2011

I learn of the murders from Amy and that the police were looking for Brent Zubek.

I contacted Devonshire detectives that evening, offering my assistance in any way since I had spent time with Amy days prior.

Detectives asked me if I had any information on a Black Ford F150 Truck

I told him I had the Vehicle Identification Number and four Detectives rushed to my house.

I supplied them with DMV transfer paperwork Amy had me help her with.

They informed me that before this information all they had was a description of the truck and now they could get the registered plate information.

The plate was loaded into LAPD patrol cars with OCR Technology and he was located at a motel on Sepulveda Boulevard..

THIS ASSISTANCE, THAT LED TO THE SUSPECT, WAS GIVEN 1 WEEK PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REWARD.

While being followed away from the motel, Brent eluded police, and carjacked a person for their car.

August 14, 2011- August 19, 2011

I remained in intermittent contact with Amy Harder. During this time, she told me horrible details about the murders.

On August 19, 2011 Mitchell Englander offered a \$75,000 reward, for the public's assistance in apprehending the murderer. City Council file 11-0010-S40.

City Offers \$75,000 Reward for Info on Double Murder in Chatsworth

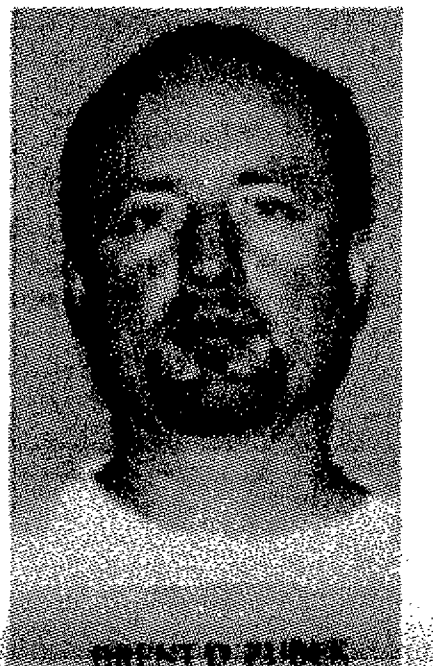
Councilman Mitch Englander, who represents Council District 12 which includes Chatsworth, calls the killings a "heinous, vicious crime."

By Saul Danielz | Email the author | August 20, 2011

Los Angeles Councilman Mitch Englander announced Friday a \$75,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in connection with the slayings of a man and woman found dead in a trash bin at a Lassen Street home in Chatsworth last week.

Englander, who represents Council District 12 which includes Chatsworth, called the killings a "heinous, vicious crime."

Authorities are searching for Brent D. Zubek, 43, of the San Fernando



August 20, 2011

TIME 15:00

Amy Harder calls me and said she wanted to come over around 1700..

TIME 15:50

A Detective I knew as Burt called me and asked me if I knew where Amy was and I informed him of her intent to come over.

TIME 17:00 - 19:50

Detective Burt begins surveillance on my house while he organizes another team, with more 'covert' vehicles, to take his place.

This also begins my constant contact with various Detectives working the case, the Devonshire Det I coordinated with most was Mike Fesperman.

I receive several calls asking me to contact Amy to assure her arrival.

One of four different surveillance vehicles, simultaneously, "set up" to watch my house, strategically prepared to be able to follow Amy once she leaves.

TIME 21:00

I call Amy and fabricate a story of how I am in desperate need of her help with a medical situation she had helped me with in the past. *I plead with her to come over.*

I inform detectives of my call to her.

TIME 22:20 - 22:36

Amy arrives and tells me how she spent the day with Brent and how he made her get rid of anything that could be a trackable device.

She explains to me his intent to seek revenge against Richard Eckols or his family because he is upset Richard took something of value from him. I knew that time was of the essence for the safety of the Eckols family, and quite likely my own.

She explains that he is most paranoid, and the point when he feels most vulnerable, **while driving stolen cars**, something he had been doing along with local robberies almost daily.

She tells me he was squatting another house and had shown it to her. She told me she still loved him and was conflicted.

She leaves my house and I follow my instructions, and phoned the surveilling detectives and tell them where she said she was going, so they could follow.

TIME 22:43 - 23:25

I glance up at my security monitor and the the van that just left is returning. My phone rings and I am told they were unable to keep up with her driving. I am asked if I can come up with a reason for her to return.

After giving it careful consideration, I decide I am already in up to my neck. So I call The detective and say *"I have an idea"*:

To "give" Brent my registered and legal Jeep Cherokee as a safe means of travel and escape. He knew I was unable to drive it at that time and Amy had just told me about how fearful he was of being spotted in a stolen car.

However, I would require them to install a GPS tracking device on the Jeep so I would be guaranteed it would lead them to Zubek and be recoverable. I am notified via phone that my idea has been welcomed and a team was enroute to GPS my Jeep.

August 21, 2011

TIME 01:10

I open my gate to two detectives. They spend about 15 minutes installing the tracking device, I told them he would look for it so hide it well.

Upon finishing, I call Amy and tell her to call Brent now, and ask if he wants my Jeep to drive since he had left me a deposit on the safe he had wanted to buy from me. I assure her it will not be reported stolen and it was street legal. In order to prevent any suspicion, I explained I was doing this because I was sympathetic towards her feelings for him. She puts me on hold, calls Brent, and tells me he was thankful, and she will be over to pick it up shortly.

TIME 03:11- 06:00

Amy returns to my house with her friend, to help prepare the Jeep for Brent, as it needed a battery (I donated from my daily driver), and to be checked for anything "suspicious".

Amy takes the Jeep. Before leaving, she tells me Brent will be calling to thank me.

TIME ABOUT 16:30

I call the detectives to get a status and I am informed by a Detective , *"Amy just picked him up, I need to go now"*

During the stop of the Jeep, Brent got out and shot at officers as he ran away into some

homes. The police located him on top of a house two hours later and as he attempted to fire at officers again he was shot and surrendered.

Brent had been eluding police for 10 days. He was not quiet about it as he phoned in a threat against Eckols to the police station, carjacked someone, and had been spotted, but not close to apprehended. Within 19 hours of implementing my Jeep plan, Zubek was in handcuffs.

I, as do many others, including Detective Ross and the family of Oletta Williams, feel that I was ***absolutely essential*** to the apprehension of Brent Zubek. I received a personal call from Detective Ross the day after his capture advising me that I should apply for the reward. I began communicating with the Detectives I had worked with to inform them of my intention to apply for reward. Even receiving a call from Detective Burt, informing me not to talk to media as "it may jeopardise your reward".

THE TRIAL & CONVICTION OF BRENT ZUBEK

Brent decided to represent himself and so I was subjected to questioning directly by the defendant. The following is a transcription from my court testimony of any questions relating to my involvement with his capture and request for the reward. Due to his lack of experience questioning someone on the stand the Prosecution made several objections during his line of questioning, any questions objected to have been left out of the transcript below.

SEE TESTIMONY TRANSCRIPTION

Brent Zubek was found guilty by jury of his peers on all charges and was sentenced in March of 2015. *The judge imposed a sentence of 2 life terms without the possibility of parole and additional 9 life terms + 495 years for the murders of his roommates and attempted murder of police officers.*

I testified at trial, and provided evidence that would be used against him, (see below ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE). I attended both the reading of the verdict from the jury and the sentencing. I would certainly expect that one would feel that I had fulfilled the obligation of "contributing to his conviction".

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

After his arrest I obtained savings bonds that Brent had given to a mutual friend. I located the man they were issued to living in Chatsworth. I called him and informed him of the documents that I had recovered. He explained that this was the *first lead they had received in a 3 year old major burglary investigation*. Detectives immediately came to me and recovered the bonds. They were used as evidence during his trial against him.

RISK

I knew the risk of taking at the time. However, I would have never thought that I would have to give up complete anonymity in the process of collecting what I clearly earned. By having to go on a televised Commission meeting, not only do I put myself at further risk and exposure, as do others that speak up for me; as one of the speakers stated at the last meeting.... "snitches get stitches"

ATTEMPTED REWARD ACKNOWLEDGMENT /APPLICATION

From the day after his arrest until his trial I made several well documented requests for the LAPD to acknowledge my contribution to their case, so I could pursue the reward. All are well documented in a series of emails. Feeling frustrated with not receiving results at the L.A.P.D. level I called downtown and spoke with Doug Tripp from Councilman Englanders office expressing my concerns.

Had Brent Zubek never called me on to the stand and questioned me regarding the reward. I believe an application for reward would have never been submitted. Finally in March 2015, The new "Lead" Detective Moakley emailed me with the form after numerous requests.

In November of 2015 I did my own investigation into where the application was status wise and discovered it had never been submitted. I contacted the detective who basically told me that it had been mis-filed. That week he conferred with the DA and drafted a recommendation letter to the Chief.

In an email sent to me December 3rd, Detective Moakley informed me that he had just sent the letter up the chain of command and it should be on the Chief's desk any day now and in front of the Commission within weeks. **(When in fact it had been signed off by the Chief days earlier and was scheduled for the Dec 8th meeting.)**

Upon reading the Chief's letter to the commission where he referred to my assistance as being "non essential to the capture of Zubek" and further a recommendation of a fraction of the reward I was in shock. Both the detective and the DA knew exactly what I had done....so how?
[LINK TO LETTER FROM CHIEF CHARLIE BECK TO THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDING A MINIMAL PAYMENT DUE TO MY ACTIONS AS BEING "NON-ESSENTIAL TO HIS CAPTURE"](#)

ALL COMMUNICATION WITH DETECTIVES/CITY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW.

UPDATES:

[VIDEO OF 12/08/2015 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING.](#)

Very important to note the statement made by Vice President Steve Soboroff at the end, supporting payment to me *in full* and calling the delay "ridiculous".

The commission requested the LAPD to review my evidence and re-submit a report in January. I supplied them with the evidence (*the video's and text messages they already knew existed*) as well as a detailed report. (*Seen above*)

The next Police Commission meeting is 2/2/16 and I am told I am **NOT** on calendar. However, after a conversation with Doug Tripp from Mitch Englanders office I have been informed that the police still portray my participation as "non-essential to his capture". I appreciate his guidance, and patience, he has offered me when frustration with this process has overwhelmed me at times.

Contact me for my last known person to be reviewing and writing the report for the Police Commission that was due in early January.

I have made calls asking for information on why I was not on the agenda and no answers were given. **Since I was forced to give up anonymity to claim a reward there is no question I am due. After months of being misled and not given straight answers, I have chosen to go to the media so those who are undermining the reward system are exposed.** LAPD Detectives have been giving false statements regarding the events leading up to the apprehension of the killer.

02/15/16 UPDATE

http://www.lapdpolicecom.lacity.org/020916/BPC_16-0049.pdf

Please contact me with questions anytime: 818-584-6227 or 818-830-0708

Harlan Hobbs

photohobbs@gmail.com

(818) 58-HOBBS (818)584-6227

Important links introducing you to Harlan Hobbs:

News Coverage of Artwork

(DRAFT) Of Documentary "How art saved Harlan Hobbs" by Bart Vandever

Example of 100+ Signer Comments From a Petition to the PC For Payment:

Hobbs is an exceptional person and a great friend. As a member of the law enforcement community I am concerned that the L.A.P.D would not honor a reward to a person who put them self in danger to do his part to keep his community safe.

Anthony Elmore, Plano, TX

1 month ago



 Share  Tweet

I'm signing because the facts state Mr. Hobbs played a major role in the capture and arrest of this very dangerous criminal. He deserves every penny of the reward offered, plus a new off road vehicle to replace the one borrowed and mistakenly sold by the LAPD. It is only right!

Cynthia Maxwell, Northridge, CA

1 month ago



[Report](#)

I am Richard Eckols. I was called by a homicide detective from Devonshire who informed me that a threat was made against myself and my family, by Brent Zubek. I asked if they knew where the call was made from and if they knew where he was and I was told they did not. Just for my three year old daughter and wife should stay where they are until they could get police to them. During the next 36 hours we lived in fear...He was caught 2 blocks from where we were staying. I learned of what Harlan did to catch him...There are no words to describe what I felt when I learned he made that decision after learning about my families threat. He didn't just make a phone call, he did more than anybody else in their right mind would have done. Harlan, My family and I THANK YOU.

Richard Eckols, Los Angeles, CA

1 month ago



[Report](#)

I saw Harlan devise his plan & watched the turn of events unfold. It was solely because of him, his plan, and his vehicle that (at the time) suspect Brent Zubek was captured and apprehended. I feel he is due the full reward amount originally offered for all of his selfless and courageous efforts.

Karyn Goldstein, Los Angeles, CA

2 months ago



[Report](#)

GIVE THIS MAN HIS FULL REWARD FOR WHAT HE DONE TO CAPTURE
AND HELP LAPD PAY THIS MAN HE DESERVES IT!!!

JENNIFER NEWMAN, Joplin, MO

1 month ago



[Report](#)

Harlan deserves the full reward for putting his life on the line helping the police
arrest a murderer

Janie Schutte, Cary, IL

1 month ago



[Report](#)

I am not only signing because he deserves, but also what they are doing undermines the whole reason that rewards are offered

Mark Hovis, Canyon Country, CA

1 month ago



[Report](#)

I've known Harlan for around 25 years, and he has always been a person to help when help is needed, and make a plan that works when no one else seems to be able to. He absolutely deserves the whole reward. Without him, the cops would probably still be looking for the guy.

Jennifer Dube, Winnipeg, Canada

1 month ago



[Report](#)

I know this man and I remember him telling me as it happened. The fact that he wasn't paid the full amount is a disgrace and dishonor to our country and justice.

Jesse Adams, Edinboro, PA

2 months ago



[Report](#)

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