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BPC #16-0338 ✓

**INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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SEP 28 2016

September 28, 2016  
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**REVIEWED** POLICE COMMISSION

**TO:** Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

  
**RICHARD M. TEFANK**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
9/28/16  
DATE

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD OFFER ON CITY COUNCIL  
FILE NO. 11-0010-S2

**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 Saturday December 25, 2010, at approximately 2220 hours, Victim Kashmir James, a twenty-five year old female, was in front of 1723 West 85<sup>th</sup> Street. James was with Victim Diondre Woods, a male, 26 years of age, and her three year old daughter, Neveah Jackson, who was seated in a 2007 silver, four door, Chrysler, 300, California License No. 6NZN922. James and Woods were standing on the street at the rear passenger door of the vehicle. They were approached by a male, later identified as Darnell Houston, who produced a handgun and fired multiple rounds at James and Woods. James was struck by the gunfire and collapsed on the street in front of 1723 West 85<sup>th</sup> Street. Woods escaped with injury, and James was pronounced dead at scene. Although there were some witnesses in the vicinity at the time of the murder, no one was in the position to see the shooter, and they cooperated to the best of their ability. For approximately seven months, countless leads failed to produce the identity of the shooter and his accomplices.

On December 28, 2010, a \$50,000 reward was introduced (then increased to \$75,000) by the Los Angeles City Council for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person responsible for this murder. The reward was again renewed July 21, 2011.

Witness-1 provided information to the Detectives indicating that he knew the identity of the shooter, and additional gang members in the vehicle, and could also direct investigators to the location of the vehicle. Darnell Houston, a 111 Neighborhood Crip gang member, admitted to witness-1 that he had shot and killed the victim. Additionally, Witness 1 overheard conversations that the driver, Lamar McKnight, had with family and associates regarding his involvement. Witness 1 was present on Christmas night when the group of gang members-

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

Page 2

5.6

Houston, McKnight, Simon, and Williams entered the SUV and drove to a neighborhood which was rival gang territory. Although witness-1 first came forward with this information on June 22, 2011, his on-going assistance was required in order to file murder charges on the defendants. On August 28, 2011, the District Attorney's Office filed murder charges on Houston, McKnight, and Simon because of the information provided by witness-1. Williams was filed on September 15, 2011, due to further investigation. One defendant took a plea bargain and the jury trial resulted in convictions for the other three defendants. Witness-1 testified at both the preliminary hearing and trial, and his testimony was vital to the case against all defendants.

It is the opinion of Detective II Stacey Szymkowiak that witness-1 is qualified for the reward offer. The information provided by witness-1 enabled murder charges to be filed on the defendant. Witness-1 was directly responsible for the identification, apprehension, and conviction of Darnell Houston, Lamar McKnight, Ezekiel Simon, and Derrick Williams. Based on these facts, it is requested that the reward funds be paid to the claimant listed on the attached Applications for Special Reward Payment.

Should you have any questions, contact Lieutenant II Michael Oppelt, Acting Commanding Officer, Criminal Gang/Homicide Division, at (323) 786-5100.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK  
Chief of Police

BOARD OF  
POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Approved *October 4, 2016*  
Secretary *Maria Silva*

Attachments