

13-0025-S1

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

~~PUBLIC SAFETY~~ BUDGET

On July 26, 2013, the Los Angeles Police Department presented a report to the Public Safety Committee, in response to Motion (Buscaino - Englander: CF 13-0025) on efforts taken by the Department to curtail hit-and-run crime incidents. Representatives from the LAPD reported that a significant problem in solving hit-and-run crimes is the lack of evidence or testimony from witnesses.

The City Council has established a procedure for offering monetary rewards for information that leads to arrests and convictions for both property crimes and violent crimes. However, violent crimes, such as murder or manslaughter, require The City Council authorize the reward for each individual incident through a separate motion and council action, versus certain property crimes like graffiti and vandalism, where a standing reward remains in place for all incidents that occur.

As part of a comprehensive program to increase public awareness of the seriousness of hit-and-run crimes, and to help facilitate police investigations by providing an extra incentive for cooperation of witnesses who otherwise would be reluctant to come forward, the City Council should establish a program offering standing rewards for tips that lead to successful hit-and-run crime arrests and convictions, similar to standing reward programs for graffiti, vandalism and illegal dumping.

The components of the standing reward program for hit-and-run crimes would include:

- 1. Offering rewards in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of individuals that leave the scene of a traffic collision resulting in damage to public and/or private property.
- 2. Offering rewards in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of individuals that leave the scene of a traffic collision resulting in bodily injury.
- 3. Offering rewards in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for tips that lead to the successful arrest and conviction of individuals that leave the scene of a traffic collision resulting in a fatality.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department and City Attorney, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Clerk, be instructed to report with recommendations to establish a standing reward offer for hit-and-run crimes that occur in the City of Los Angeles, including how the reward process would be administered and the potential fiscal impact.

PRESENTED BY Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY M. Engler

ORIGINAL

M. Engler
SEP 27 2013