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CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. R 15 - 0 0 7 3

MAR 0 6 2015

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE ADDING ARTICLE 2.3 TO CHAPTER 12 OF
DIVISION 19 OF THE LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
TO ESTABLISH A HIT-AND-RUN REWARD PROGRAM**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 13-0025-S1

Honorable Members:

Pursuant to your request, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance would add Article 2.3 to Chapter 12 of Division 19 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code with respect to rewards for hit-and-run crimes.

Background & Summary of Ordinance Provision

On September 27, 2013, the City Council requested the Police Department and the City Attorney's Office, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Clerk, to report with recommendations to establish a standing reward program 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. The hit-and-run reward program was to be modeled after the rewards programs for graffiti, vandalism and illegal dumping, and would offer standing tiered rewards for information leading to the successful identification, apprehension and conviction of persons who have committed acts of hit-and-run. The belief was that offering such a tiered reward program would increase public awareness of the seriousness of hit-and-run crimes and help facilitate

police investigations by providing an extra incentive for cooperation of witnesses who otherwise might be reluctant to come forward. (CF No. 13-0025-S1).

Representatives from the Police Department, City Attorney's Office, Chief Legislative Analyst's Office and City Clerk's Office met on several occasions to discuss the various issues associated with implementation of the reward program. The report recommended that the standing reward program for hit-and-run crimes be divided into four tiers according to the hit-and-run crime injury classification and offer a reward for information that leads to the identification, apprehension and conviction or a final adjudication by the court of persons who have committed acts of hit-and-run. The four tiers of reward are: (1) \$50,000 for fatal injuries; (2) \$25,000 for permanent and serious injuries; (3) \$5,000 for non-permanent injuries; and (4) \$1,000 for property damage only. On December 9, 2014, the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) transmitted to the City Council a report dated December 5, 2014 (BPC 14-0441) that reviewed and approved the Police Department's report relative to recommendations for establishing a standing hit-and-run traffic collision reward system.

On January 23, 2015, the Public Safety Committee recommended that the City Council request that this Office prepare an ordinance to establish a hit-and-run reward program as described in the Board's report. On February 11, 2015, the City Council adopted the Committee's recommendation. (CF 13-0025-S1).

Rule 38 Referral

A copy of the draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Board of Police Commissioners and the City Administrative Officer with a request that all comments, if any, be presented directly to the City Council or its Committees when this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Brian Sottile at (213) 978-8384. He or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By 
DAVID MICHAELSON
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM/BS:pj
Transmittal