

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to establishing a tiered reward offer program for hit-and-run crimes that occur in the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Buscaino – Englander):

1. REQUEST that the City Attorney prepare and present an ordinance to establish a tiered reward offer program for hit-and-run crimes that occur in the City of Los Angeles, substantially as discussed in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated December 5, 2014 (attached to the Council file).
2. DIRECT the LAPD to report to the Public Safety Committee one year after the proposed ordinance takes effect, discussing the impact of the ordinance on LAPD investigations of hit and run crime, arrests made, and convictions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The LAPD reports that the fiscal impact of a hit and run reward system will depend on the degree to which potential witnesses come forward and assist with the investigation and successful prosecution, which cannot be predicted with certainty. If the reward program results in a 15 percent increase in filed cases, the program would be considered successful. In this case, the total fiscal impact would be approximately \$5.5 million.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For: Glassel Park Neighborhood Council
Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council
Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

(The Budget and Finance Committee waived consideration of the above matter.)

SUMMARY

On September 27, 2013, Council considered Motion (Buscaino – Englander) relative to establishing standing reward offers for hit-and-run crimes that occur in the City of Los Angeles. Motion movers recommend 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. Motion movers believe that offering such a reward will 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. A three-tier reward is recommended for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of individuals that leave the scene of a traffic collision: \$1,000 for damage to public and/or private property, \$25,000 for collisions resulting in bodily injury, and \$50,000 for collisions resulting in a fatality. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety and Budget and Finance Committees for consideration.

In the report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated December 5, 2014, LAPD discusses the reward proposal. In conjunction with the City Attorney, City Administrative Officer, and Chief Legislative Analyst, LAPD developed a proposal to offer standing rewards according to the hit and run crime injury classification. There would be four tiers of reward offers: \$50,000 for fatal injuries, \$25,000 for permanent and serious injuries, \$5,000 for injuries other than permanent,

and \$1,000 for property damage only. The LAPD's report also covers the reward application process, the evaluation and approval of rewards, and related administrative matters. On December 9, 2014, the Board approved LAPD's report.

At its meeting held January 23, 2015, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with LAPD representatives. LAPD discussed an outreach campaign for the proposed hit and run reward program. Committee members expressed support for the tiered reward amounts recommended by LAPD. The Committee recommended that Council request the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to establish a hit and run reward program, pursuant to Motion (Buscaino-Englander), and as described in the LAPD report. The Committee further recommended that instruct LAPD to report relative to the impact of the ordinance on LAPD investigations of hit and run crime, arrests made, and convictions.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
BONIN:	ABSENT
O'FARRELL:	YES
MARTINEZ:	ABSENT

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-