

BPC #20-0045
RECEIVED 21

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

MAR 26 2020

POLICE COMMISSION

March 11, 2020
5.6


RICHARD M. TEFANK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3/27/20
DATE

TO: Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD OFFER FOR COUNCIL
FILE NO. 15-0010-S1

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

It is requested that the Board approve and transmit to Council the recommendation that an approved reward offer be paid to the witness for providing information instrumental to the apprehension and conviction of Kenyata Blake in the murder of Maria Elena Rivas, Los Angeles City Council File No. 15-0010-S1.

On Monday, December 22, 2014, at 1830 hours, Maria Elena Rivas, 62-years old, was walking home from the Ralphs Super Market at 2600 South Vermont Avenue. Ms. Rivas had stopped at the market on her way home from work and had purchased groceries for the upcoming holiday. While walking west on Adams Boulevard near Catalina Avenue, a few blocks from the market, Ms. Rivas was robbed of her purse. During the attack, the suspects fatally stabbed Ms. Rivas in the back and left her lying at the curb. A passerby called 911, and Ms. Rivas was taken by ambulance to California Hospital where she was pronounced dead.

On January 26, 2015, the witness came forward and provided critical information that directly resulted in the arrest of the perpetrators on that same day. The case was subsequently filed (Court Case No. BA433216), and the witness testified against one of the two defendants at trial; which contributed to a jury-verdict of guilty on April 15, 2019. This defendant has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility for parole. An additional defendant remains in-custody, but has been found mentally unfit to stand trial.

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

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5.6

It is the opinion of the investigating officer that the murder of Maria Elena Rivas would most likely have remained unsolved, if not for the information provided by the witness. Additionally, testimony in court against the defendant was instrumental in obtaining a conviction.

Respectfully,



MICHEL MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachments

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Approved *April 7, 2020*
Maria Lu

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL REWARD PAYMENT

DISTRIBUTION
ORIG -- LAPD
DUPE -- City Clerk
DUPE -- Claimant

Neither the filing nor submitting of information, nor the receipt or consideration thereof by the City, shall establish legal claim to, or right of recovery of, any reward offered. The provision of payment shall be governed by Chapter 12, Division 19 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

1. PRINT NAME OF APPLICANT:
Last: [REDACTED] First: [REDACTED] Middle: [REDACTED]

2. ADDRESS: (Street) [REDACTED] (City) [REDACTED] (State - Zip) [REDACTED]
Daytime Phone & Contact Person [REDACTED]

3. TODAY'S DATE: 12/20/2019

4. OCCUPATION: [REDACTED]

5. DRIVER'S LICENSE # or CALIF ID #: [REDACTED]

6. SOCIAL SECURITY #: (For payment purposes) [REDACTED]

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES: (Fill in or mark ALL that apply)

NOTE: The applicant is responsible for providing ALL of the following required information. A claim that does not provide the following required information may be disapproved for insufficient information.

7. DATE OF INCIDENT: 12/22/2014

8. TIME OF INCIDENT: 1830 AM PM
 NOON MIDNIGHT

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Adams Boulevard / Catalina Avenue (S/E Corner)

TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Murder

9. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Victim assaulted and fatally stabbed by suspects during street robbery.

12. X [REDACTED SIGNATURE]

13. X [REDACTED SIGNATURE] PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (under 18 years)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Name Lait, R. Serial # 34117 Agency LAPD
Phone # (323)786-5123

NAME OF VICTIM OR CASE:
Rivas, Maria Elena

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL DISAPPROVAL INSUFFICIENT INVOLVEMENT INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION
INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST ATTACHED: Yes No

BRIEF EXPLANATION OR COMMENTS:

The applicant, Gail Turner, provided information critical and necessary in solving, filing, and achieving a conviction in this murder case (including; identification of the perpetrators, the recovery of critical evidence, and testifying at trial).

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
REWARD CLAIM CHECKLIST**

This form must be submitted with the Department's recommendation concerning payment of the reward.
One checklist must be submitted for each claimant.

COUNCIL FILE NUMBER: 15-0010-S1 DR/AGENCY FILE NUMBER: DR 1403-26071
TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Murder REWARD AMOUNT: \$ \$50,000
REWARD EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/21/2015 REWARD EXPIRATION DATE: 07/20/2015
INFO RECEIVED WHILE REWARD IN EFFECT: YES NO DATE RECEIVED: 01/28/2015
(Check one)
CLAIMANT: [REDACTED] CLAIMANT'S OCCUPATION: Nurse
(Name or "Anonymous." If multiple anonymous claimants, indicate as "Claimant A, Claimant B," etc.)
CASE INVEST. BY: LAPD South Bureau Homicide Division OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT: _____
(Div/Section)
Investigator(s) Assigned: Detective III R. Lait (Serial No. 34117) Telephone: (323) 786-5123
(Name and Serial No.) Telephone: () _____

The above claimant is ELIGIBLE NOT ELIGIBLE to receive payment of a reward pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code Division 19, Chapter 12, Sections 19.120 through 19.129.4.

Reason(s) for claimant being NOT ELIGIBLE to receive payment

- Claimant is a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee whose employment includes duties of law enforcement.
- Claimant is a dependent of a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee whose duties include law enforcement.
- Claimant has already been compensated by his/her employer in some other manner for the actions which are the basis for claiming the reward.
- The suspect would benefit from payment of the reward to the claimant.
- The claimant is acting as an agent for the suspect.
- Claimant obtained information for a relative who is a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee, and that person obtained the information in the course of his/her employment.
- Claimant has not provided continued cooperation within the criminal justice system relative to the case for which the offer of reward is made.
- Claimant is co-suspect in the crime for which the reward is offered.
- Other: _____

Explanation:

(If additional space is needed, use next page.)

APPROVED BY _____ RANK/TITLE _____

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK

PETTY F. SANTOS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA



Eric Garcetti
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services Division
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 395
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
GENERAL INFORMATION - (213) 978-1133
FAX: (213) 978-1040

PATRICE Y. LATTIMORE
DIVISION MANAGER

CLERK.LACITY.ORG

When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.: [15-0010-S1](#)

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

January 29, 2020

Council File No.: [15-0010-S1](#)
Council Meeting Date: January 28, 2020
Agenda Item No.: 41
Agenda Description: MOTION (HARRIS-DAWSON - PRICE) relative to reinstating the reward offer for the murder of Maria Elena Rivas.

Council Action: MOTION (HARRIS-DAWSON - PRICE) - ADOPTED

Council Vote:

YES	BLUMENFIELD	YES	HUIZAR	ABSENT	O'FARRELL
YES	BONIN	YES	KORETZ	ABSENT	PRICE
YES	BUSCAINO	ABSENT	KREKORIAN	YES	RODRIGUEZ
YES	CEDILLO	YES	LEE	ABSENT	RYU
YES	HARRIS-DAWSON	YES	MARTINEZ	YES	WESSON

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
CITY CLERK

Pursuant to Charter/Los Angeles Administrative Code Section(s): 341

FILE SENT TO MAYOR:	<input type="text" value="01/29/2020"/>
LAST DAY FOR MAYOR TO ACT:	<input type="text" value="02/10/2020"/>

APPROVED
 ***DISAPPROVED**
 ***VETO**

Mayor

01/30/2020
DATE SIGNED

Adopted Report(s)

Title

Motion

Date

01/21/2020

TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED

#53

MOTION

I MOVE that the City Council reaffirm its findings for the reward offer relative to the murder of Maria Elena Rivas (Council Action of January 21, 2015, C.F. 15-0010-S1) and that the reward offer be reinstated for an additional period of six months from the publication of the renewed offer of reward by the City Clerk and, further, that the sum of \$50,000 shall be the aggregate maximum sum of any payment or payments of a City reward in this instance.

PRESENTED BY: 

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY: 

jwd


JAN 21 2020

ORIGINAL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
City Clerk

GREGORY R. ALLISON
Executive Office

When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

Office of the
CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
General Information - (213) 978-1133
Fax: (213) 978-1040

SHANNON HOPPE
Division Manager

www.cityclerk.lacity.org

January 27, 2015

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council File No. 15-0010-S1, at its meeting held January 21, 2015.

City Clerk
wrq

Mayor's Time Stamp
2005 JAN 22 PM 3:09
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

City Clerk's Time Stamp
2015 JAN 22 PM 2:59
CITY CLERK
BY _____

FORTHWITH

SUBJECT TO THE MAYOR'S APPROVAL

COUNCIL FILE NO. 15-0010-S1

COUNCIL DISTRICT _____

COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE January 21, 2015

RE: OFFER OF REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE IDENTIFICATION, APPREHENSION, AND CONVICTION OF THE PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MARIA ELENA RIVAS ON DECEMBER 22, 2014

LAST DAY FOR MAYOR TO ACT FEB 02 2015
(10 Day Charter requirement as per Charter Section 341)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR MAYOR USE ONLY

APPROVED

✓

*DISAPPROVED

*Transmit objections in writing pursuant to Charter Section 341

DATE OF MAYOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL JAN 22 2015

E.G.
MAYOR

BFG
CITY CLERK

2015 JAN 26 PM 3:56

CITY CLERK

32

15-0010-S1

MOTION CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED

#56

On December 22, 2014 at approximately 6:30 p.m., 62-year-old Maria Elena Rivas was walking home from the Ralph's grocery store located at 2600 South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, where she had stopped to purchase groceries for the upcoming holiday. As she was walking west on Adams Boulevard near Catalina Avenue, a few blocks from the Ralph's, she was attacked and robbed of her purse. During this attack, she was fatally stabbed by her assailant or assailants. Detectives are continuing to investigate this case, and hope that a monetary reward compels members of the public to provide information on this crime.

The person(s) responsible for this crime represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people of Los Angeles; therefore, it is appropriate for the City of Los Angeles to offer a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the death of Maria Elena Rivas.

I THEREFORE MOVE that by adoption of this Motion, the City Council provide an offer of reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the death of Maria Elena Rivas on December 22, 2014, and in support thereof, make the following findings pursuant to Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code:

1. That the death of Ms. Rivas was caused by the willful misconduct of one or more persons.
2. That this offer of reward is consistent with and taken for the immediate protection of the public peace, health and safety of local residents, as well as visitors to the City, and is consistent with the need to arrest and convict the person or persons who, because of not being apprehended, could by their actions further terrorize and present a continuing and immediate menace to the rights of persons in the City.
3. That what happened to the victim is an especially disturbing crime and therefore, as a matter of public policy, the City hereby offers a reward as an added inducement for persons to come forward with information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the death of Maria Elena Rivas.
4. That the sum of \$50,000 shall be the aggregate maximum sum of any payment or payments of a City reward in this instance.
5. That the offer of reward shall be in effect for six months from the date of the advertisement of the reward by the City Clerk.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be directed to cause notices and/or advertisements to be duly published according to the requirements of Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, and to thereby cause the offer of reward to become effective.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be directed to publish the reward notice in the "Our Weekly" and "LA Watts Times," in addition to the regular publications used by the City Clerk for reward notices, to ensure adequate community notice.

JAN 14 2015

ADOPTED

JAN 21 2015

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

PRESENTED BY:

Bernard C. Parks
BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:

[Signature]

jwd

[Signature]

TO THE MAYOR FORTHWITH