

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY


Over recent years, hit-and-run crimes have been a significant problem in the City of Los Angeles. Often, these crimes have resulted in injured pedestrians and cyclists, as well a number of deaths. In an effort to address this problem, the City Council approved an ordinance to create a standing Hit-and-Run Reward Program in 2015. Under the Program, the Police Department (LAPD) can issue a reward for information leading to the identification, arrest, and conviction of a person who has committed a hit-and-run crime. The Program is designed to encourage residents of the City to come forward as witnesses in hit-and-run crimes, as well as assist the LAPD in successfully investigating these crimes. Under the Program, an individual seeking a reward for providing information related to a hit-and-run crime must submit their claim to the LAPD within 60 days of the incident they witnessed. However, some cases are not resolved in this timeframe, and there is no mechanism in the Administrative Code to extend or reauthorize these rewards.

Under the City's Special Reward Program, the City Council may offer rewards for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of a person responsible for a particular criminal event or series of events that have occurred in the City. Special Rewards are often offered in homicide cases or other serious crimes, and are designed to act as an added inducement or incentive for persons to come forth with information leading to the needed identification and/or apprehension of a person who poses a threat to the community. These rewards are valid for six months, and the Council may reauthorize the reward when it expires. Hit-and-run rewards in cases involving injuries and fatalities should be valid for six months, and there should be a mechanism to reauthorize rewards when they expire.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Police Department, be requested to prepare a draft ordinance to amend Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 2.3 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Hit-and-Run Reward Program, to

1. Extend the length of time a reward related to a hit-and-run crime that causes an injury or death is valid from sixty days to six months; and
2. Give the Board of Police Commissioners the ability to recommend the reauthorization of offers of rewards for information related to hit-and-run crimes, with the reauthorization subject to Council approval.

PRESENTED BY


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY





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