

MOTION

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

#53

On June 13, 2022, workers from the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation were conducting routine maintenance to the sewer lines in the neighborhood of 2755 Woodshire Drive. The workers discovered the remains for 28-year-old Mercy Melissa Martinez in a bag. Ms. Martinez, who was experiencing homelessness and substance abuse disorder, moved around various shelters in Los Angeles, and was last seen alive on June 15, 2021. Her personal effects provided no leads to her whereabouts prior to her death.

The person or persons 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 or persons responsible for what happened to Mercy Melissa Martinez.

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 or persons responsible for what happened to Mercy Melissa Martinez that lead to her death after she was last seen alive on June 15, 2021, 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 injury of Ms. Martinez 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 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 or persons responsible for what happened to Mercy Melissa Martinez that lead to her death.
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.

PRESENTED BY:

Nithya Raman

NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

[Signature]

ORIGINAL

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JAN 10 2023