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POLICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
100 WEST FIRST STREET, SUITE 134
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4112

(213) 236-1400 PHONE
(213) 236-1410 FAX
(213) 236-1440 TDD

January 12, 2023

BPC #23-005

The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT ON REWARD OFFER COUNCIL FILE NO. 20-01-17443.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, January 10, 2023 the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Muñoz".

REBECCA MUÑOZ
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

REVIEWED ²⁵⁻⁰⁰³
RICHARD M. TANK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE 1/4/23

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2023

POLICE COMMISSION

December 20, 2022

1.1

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD OFFER (DR NO. 20-01-17443)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) 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

On April 15, 2015, the City Council amended the Los Angeles Administrative Code and created a Hit and Run Reward Program Trust. This reward program was created to encourage community members to provide information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction, or resolution through civil compromise, of suspects who fail to stop and render aid at a traffic collision.

It is requested that a \$25,000 reward be awarded to the claimant for a Felony Hit and Run case, DR No. 20-0117443. With the claimant's assistance, Christopher Smith was positively identified as the felony hit and run driver and was convicted on November 15, 2021. Attached is the application for the reward.

On September 4, 2020, at approximately 1700 hours, Evangelina Zesati was crossing Broadway at College Street, in a marked crosswalk. The driver, who was later identified as Christopher Smith, was driving his 2005 Mercedes-Benz C230 westbound on College Street and negotiated a southbound left turn onto Broadway. Smith failed to yield to Zesati before negotiating the left turn and crashed into her. The impact of the crash caused Zesati to be catapulted into the air and landed on her head. Smith did stop, exited his vehicle, and went to check on Zesati. Less than a minute later, Smith reentered his vehicle, drove away from the scene, and he failed to render aid and identify himself. The Los Angeles Fire Department responded and transported Zesati to a local hospital. Zesati was admitted in the Intensive Care Unit with severe injuries.

On September 9, 2020, a witness (not the claimant) met with Forensic Artist Anthony Kaklamanos and a sketch of Smith was completed. On September 22, 2020, detectives conducted a press conference where a reward bulletin was released. The reward bulletin contained photos of the Mercedes-Benz and the sketch photo of Smith. On September 24, 2020, the claimant telephoned Detective Campos to advise him that he had video recording of Smith

and his Mercedes-Benz. His video captured Smith's face and the front license plate of the Mercedes-Benz. The claimant emailed the video to Detective Campos. Detective Campos reviewed the video, and the video did capture Smith's face and the front license plate (No. 5HYC522). Using Department resources, detectives were able to identify Christopher Smith as the owner of the Mercedes-Benz.

On September 10, 2020, Central Traffic Investigators, Officers Gabriel Garcia, Serial No. 39759, and Xiu Deng, Serial No. 42932, obtained video footage that captured the hit and run vehicle prior to the collision. On September 15, 2020, Detective Juan Campos, Serial No. 31480, obtained video footage that partially captured the crash. It also captured Smith walking into the video frame, checking on Zesati, and then walking out of video frame.

On September 25, 2020, detectives conducted a follow-up to Smith's residence and arrested him without incident, Booking No. 6019099. Smith was interviewed and admitted to the detectives he was the driver who crashed into Zesati and left the scene without rendering aid and identifying himself. Additionally, Smith admitted that the person in the video was him.

On October 20, 2020, the Deputy District Attorney Marcia Daniel filed 1-count of 20001(b)(2) California Vehicle Code, Felony Hit and Run Causing Injury, Case No. BA490779. On November 15, 2020, Smith was convicted for 20001(b)(2) of the California Vehicle Code and was sentenced to two years in state prison.

It is the opinion of the investigating detective that the claimant qualifies for the sum of the \$25,000 reward. The information provided by the claimant led to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of Christopher Smith. Based on these facts, it is requested that the reward funds in the amount of \$25,000 be paid to the claimant listed in the attached "Application for Special Reward Payment."

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Detective Juan Campos, Detective Section of Central Traffic Division, at (213) 486-0755.

Respectfully,


MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

**BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**
Approved *January 10, 2023*
Secretary *Rebecca Moore*

Attachment

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL REWARD PAYMENT

DISTRIBUTION
ORIG - LAPD
DUPE - City Clerk
DUPE - Claimant

Mail to: Traffic Coordination Section, 100 W. First St, Room #469, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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 18 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: October 21, 2020

4. OCCUPATION: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Provider

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

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

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: September 4, 2020 8. TIME OF INCIDENT: 5:00 AM PM
 NOON MIDNIGHT

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Intersection of North Broadway and College Street in Central Area

TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Hit & Run

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: 70-year-old female pedestrian crossing North Broadway was struck by driver and suffered critical injuries as driver fled the scene.

12. APPLICANT SIGNATURE

13. PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (under 18 years)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Name DET-III CAMPOS, J Serial # 21480 Agency LAPD/CTD
Phone # 213-486-0755

NAME OF VICTIM OR CASE: EVANGELINA ZESATI 20-01-17443

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL DISAPPROVAL INSUFFICIENT INVOLVEMENT INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST ATTACHED: Yes No

BRIEF EXPLANATION OR COMMENTS: APPLICANT PROVIDED AUDIO THAT LED TO THE IDENTIFICATION, ARREST, & CONVICTION OF CHRISTOPHER SMITH

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY: Det-III Campos, JUAN #21480
Juan Campos

**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: _____ DR/AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 20-0117443

TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Service Industry Hot Line REWARD AMOUNT: \$ 25,000.00

REWARD EFFECTIVE DATE: 9-4-2020 REWARD EXPIRATION DATE: 9-4-2023

INFO RECEIVED WHILE REWARD IN EFFECT: YES NO
(Check one)

CLAIMANT: [REDACTED] CLAIMANT'S OCCUPATION: CARE TAKER
(Name or "Anonymous." If multiple anonymous claimants, indicate as "Claimant A, Claimant B," etc.)

CASE INVEST. BY: LAPD CENTRAL TRAFFIC DGS OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT: _____
(Div/Section)

Investigator(s) Assigned: Pgt-II (Am Rpt, S) #31480 Telephone: (213) 486-0757
(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 [Signature] RANK/TITLE Pgt-II
#31480



REWARD
\$25,000



CENTRAL TRAFFIC DETECTIVES
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF LOS ANGELES
MICHEL R. MOORE, CHIEF OF POLICE

Hit and Run With Severe Injuries



Information Wanted

On Friday, September 4, 2020, at approximately 5:00 p.m., officers from Central Traffic Division were called to the intersection of North Broadway and College Street in Central Area. When officer arrived, they learned that a 70-year-old female pedestrian was crossing North Broadway when she was struck by the driver of a black Mercedes Benz sedan. The pedestrian suffered multiple blunt force trauma injuries and was taken to a local hospital critical condition.

The driver of the Mercedes stopped briefly then fled the scene despite pleas to remain from witnesses. The driver is described as a male, Black, 35-40 years of age, 6'3"-6'4", 180 lbs., lock black hair with the tips being bleached, with a No. "1" tattooed on the right side of his face, and tattoos on both arms. The vehicle is described as a black 2003-2006 Mercedes, C 230, with paper dealer plates.

If anyone has information regarding the vehicle, driver or collision, please contact Detective Juan Campos, Central Traffic Detectives, at (213) 486-0755, (213)833-3713 or e-mail him at 31480@LAPD.Online or Central Traffic Division Watch Commander at (213) 833-3746. During weekends and off-hours calls should be directed to the 24-hour toll free number at 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (1-877-527-3247). For anonymous calls please call LA Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (800-222-8477) or visit www.lacrimestoppers.org, or Tipsters www.lapdonline.org.

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\$25,000 Reward Offered on Severe Injury Hit and Run NA20052ti

September 21, 2020



WHAT: News Conference

WHEN: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9 a.m.

WHERE: "Blossom Plaza Quad" 900 North Broadway Los Angeles, California 90012

WHO: LAPD Deputy Chief Blake Chow, Transit Services Bureau LAPD Deputy Chief Vito Palazzolo, Operation Central Bureau LAPD Commander Victor Davalos, Operation Central Bureau LAPD Commander Gerald Woodyard, Traffic Group LAPD Captain III Scott Harrelson, Central Division LAPD Captain Brent McGuyre, Central Division LAPD Captain Gary Walters, Central Traffic Division LAPD Detective Juan Camacho, Central Traffic Division Representative from

WHY: On September 4, 2020, around 5 p.m., a 70-year female Hispanic, was crossing Broadway, at College Street. She was in the crosswalk and had the "Walk" signal. A black possible 2003 to 2006 Mercedes-Benz C230, which was travelling westbound on College Street, made a southbound left turn onto Broadway. The driver collided into the female, catapulting her into the air, and she landed on the street. The driver did stop, exited the vehicle, however fled the scene without rendering aid or identifying himself.

The female sustained a brain bleed, broke her neck, clavicle, and pelvis, and it required her to be admitted into Intensive Care Unit.

Video, photos, and a sketch drawing of the driver's facial image will be released.

CONTACT: For further information, please contact Detective Juan Campos at 213-486-0755 Or email at 31480@LAPD.Online.



Do you have any helpful information regarding this post?

Call us 24/7 at 1-877-LAPD-24-7 (~~1-877-527-3247~~) to share any helpful information you have.

Wish to remain anonymous?

Call the L.A. Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (~~800-222-8477~~) or submit an anonymous tip through our form.

[SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS TIP](#)