

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

July 19, 2016

On December 13, 1975, at 3:00 am, Long Beach Police Officer Franke Neal Lewis was murdered in the 6200 block of Cantel in Long Beach. Officer Lewis had completed his shift and was driving home when he observed suspicious activity in a car parked on the street a few doors down from his house. Investigators believe Officer Lewis parked his car and walked down the street towards the disturbance to investigate. As he approached the car, Officer Lewis was shot and killed by unknown suspect(s). The suspect(s) had been involved in the attempted murder of Dennis Gitschier prior to being approached by Officer Lewis. Dennis Gitschier had pulled off the freeway and parked at the location after becoming tired while driving home. Gitschier was lying across the front street when he was brutally attacked while still inside of his car. Gitschier's injuries were severe requiring him to be hospitalized for a period of time. Dennis Gitschier credits Officer Franke Lewis with saving his life that night.

Officer Lewis' killer(s) have never been found. However, the Long Beach Police Department has re-opened the investigation and continues to seek the public's help in solving this homicide.

On October 27, 2015, this Board approved a \$10,000 reward offer which was extended on January 19, 2016. That reward is due to expire on July 22, 2016, unless it is extended.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors extend the offer of a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s) of this heinous crime.

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Contact:
Detectives Todd Johnson or Shea Robertson at (562) 570-7244
Long Beach Police Department – Homicide Detail
DK:cn

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

SOLIS _____