COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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September 16, 2008

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

14 SEP 16 2008

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ROSA WHO WAS MURDERED DURING AN ATTEMPTED ROBBERY (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTE)

SUBJECT

Approval of this recommendation will authorize the Executive Officer of the Board to distribute reward funds to the individual who provided information to the Long Beach Police Department that led to the convictions of Justin Flint and Frank Gonzales.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in amount of $25,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds, to the individual who provided information to law enforcement that led to the convictions of Justin Flint and Frank Gonzales, the persons responsible for the murder, during an attempted robbery, of Sheriff's Deputy Maria Cecilia Rosa on the morning of March 28, 2006, while she was exiting a friend's home on Eucalyptus Ave. in the City of Long Beach on her way to work.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On April 4, 2006, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, your Board offered a $25,000 reward for information relating to the murder of Sheriff's Deputy Maria Cecilia Rosa on the morning of March 28, 2006, while she was exiting a friend's home on Eucalyptus Ave. in the City of Long Beach on her way to work. The filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward money expired on September 1, 2006.

To aid Long Beach Police Department Investigators in the continuing investigation of this crime, on August 15, 2006, your Board reestablished the reward offer, thereby establishing January 12, 2007, as the new date in which to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward.

On January 9, 2007, Long Beach Police Department investigators filed two claims with the Executive Office of the Board for the reward on behalf of the two individuals who wish to remain anonymous, believing that they both provided crucial information that led to the arrests and ultimate convictions of Mr. Flint and Mr. Gonzales. However, one individual expressed disinterest in receiving any reward money and requested that the claim be withdrawn.

In accordance with provisions of the County Code, Title 4 – Revenue and Finance relating to rewards, your Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for distribution of the reward funds.

A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board met and reviewed the claim filed for the reward funds. The panel is recommending that the reward funds in total amount of $25,000 be awarded to the remaining claimant.

The chronological events in this case are as follows:

- On the morning of March 28, 2008, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Maria Cecilia Rosa exited her friend's home on Eucalyptus Ave. in the City of Long Beach and was on her way to work. While loading her bags into the trunk of her vehicle two persons attempted to rob her at gun point. Although Deputy Rosa produced a handgun in order to defend herself she was shot two times before having a chance to return fire. Deputy Rosa was pronounced dead a short while later.

- On April 4, 2006, the Board on motion of Supervisor Knabe, approved the establishment of a $25,000 reward to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement in the investigation of the case.

- On May 17, 2006, the claimant immediately contacted Long Beach Police Department Investigators after obtaining information from an informant. The claimant provided the name of the suspect (Frank Gonzales), and also arranged a meeting between the Investigators and the informant.

- On May 19, 2006, Investigators met with an informant and obtained personal information about Mr. Gonzales, cross streets of the area where he was believed to be living, and information about the bicycle left at the scene of the murder.

- During their investigation of the information provided by the claimant and informant, DNA and other evidence the Investigators were able to positively identify Frank Gonzales as being responsible for the murder of Deputy Rosa.

- On September 27, 2006, the District Attorney issued a complaint against Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Flint, who were already serving time in State prison on unrelated charges, and charged them with Murder [Penal Code Section 187(a)] and Attempted Robbery [Penal Code Section 664/211].

- On December 11, 2007, Mr. Flint was convicted on all counts as well as several weapons charges and on January 15, 2008, he was sentenced to 29 years to life in prison.

- On April 22, 2008, Mr. Gonzales was convicted on all counts and on May 12, 2008, he was sentenced to death.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal of Service Excellence. Publication in local newspapers and posting of reward notices on the County website may encourage persons to provide information to law enforcement, which could lead to the arrest and/or conviction of the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life to residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a $25,000 reward fund. Pursuant to provisions in the County Code, the reward is to be paid from the Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds in equal shares of $5,000 from each member's account.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code establishing procedures for offering cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts. Your Board, from time to time has offered such rewards to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement with their investigations.

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and specifically Section 4.50.010B which states, "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of conviction due to the death or incapacity of such person or persons."

The Notice of Reward Offered was posted on the Board of Supervisors' website and published in the Press Telegram. In addition, copies were provided to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current County services.

Respectfully submitted,

SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SAH:am

c: Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Acting Auditor-Controller

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