



**SACHI A. HAMAI**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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November 17, 2009

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

Dear Supervisors:

### **RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS RELATING TO THE MURDER OF NEIL HACKER (ALL DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)**

#### **SUBJECT**

Board approval is being requested for the distribution of reward funds in the amount of \$10,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in total amount of \$10,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds, to the individual who provided information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and conviction of Mr. Steven Jones who was responsible for fatally shooting Mr. Neil Hacker.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On November 12, 2004, at approximately 12:30 p.m., 24-year-old Neil Hacker was discovered fatally shot inside his place of business at Critical Car Care Detail Shop located at 4848 Quartz Hill Road in Quartz Hill.

On November 23, 2004, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board offered a \$10,000 reward in order to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau in obtaining information relative to this case. On February 15, 2005, your Board extended the reward offer and the filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office was extended to July 21, 2005.

Shortly after the crime the Reward Claimant (Claimant) contacted the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau Detectives and provided the name of Mr. Steven Jones as the person responsible for the fatal shooting of Neil Hacker, the murder of another individual unrelated to this case, as well as other crimes allegedly committed by Mr. Jones.

In January 2005, Mr. Jones was arrested in Arizona and subsequently extradited to California in March 2005.

On April 6, 2005, a Preliminary Hearing was held and Mr. Jones was charged with the following violations: Two counts of attempted murder, two counts of aggravated mayhem, burglary, possession of a firearm by a felon, murder of Neil Hacker, murder of Sharon Willis, sodomy, oral copulation, torture, and criminal threats.

On April 11, 2005, the Executive Office of the Board received a claim from an individual who wishes to remain anonymous who assisted in the investigation and provided information to law enforcement which lead to the apprehension and conviction of Mr. Jones.

Throughout the investigation the Claimant cooperated with law enforcement in the gathering of evidence by recording phone calls, providing information obtained during jail visits, turning over letters with information related to the case, pointing out locations where this crime and other crimes occurred, where evidence was disposed of, as well as the location of the murder weapon. The Claimant also testified at the preliminary hearing and trial.

On May 28, 2009, Mr. Jones was found guilty of the criminal charges filed against him and on June 17, 2009 the jury returned with a penalty of death for Mr. Jones. On August 14, 2009 the court sentenced Mr. Jones to death.

A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claim filed for the reward fund. The panel is recommending the reward be paid to the individual who provided information to law enforcement.

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

**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 apprehension 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 \$10,000 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 \$2,000 from each Supervisor's budget.

**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 Antelope Valley Press. In addition, copies were provided to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of this recommendation does not impact other current County services or projects.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/17/2009

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sachi A. Hamai".

SACHI A. HAMAI

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

SAH:am

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