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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

September 03, 2013

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

#9

September 10, 2013

Sachi A. Hamai
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS RELATING TO THE CAPTURE OF CHRISTOPHER JORDAN DORNER (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTE)

SUBJECT

Approval is being requested for the distribution of reward funds in the amount of \$100,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Make a finding that conviction of Christopher Jordan Dorner, the person responsible for injuring a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officer, and the murders of a Riverside Police Officer and daughter of a retired LAPD Captain and her fiancé, during a killing spree which began on February 3, 2013, is impossible due to his death during the course of his apprehension.
2. Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds to Karen and Jim Reynolds in the amount of \$80,000 and Daniel McGowan in amount of \$20,000, for the information provided to law enforcement that led to the whereabouts of Christopher Jordan Dorner, for a total amount of \$100,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On February 3, 2013, Christopher Jordan Dorner began a killing spree, first taking the lives of an LAPD Captain's daughter, Monica Quan, and her fiancé, Keith Lawrence. Quan and Lawrence were found in the parking structure of their condominium complex in the City of Irvine.

In the early morning hours of February 7, 2013, Christopher Jordan Dorner went to the City of Corona with the intent to kill an LAPD Officer and was involved in a shootout with two LAPD Officers who were protecting the intended Officer. During the shoot-out, Dorner wounded one Officer in the head and disabled their vehicle and fled.

Immediately thereafter, Dorner ambushed two Riverside City Police Officers who were stopped at a red light at the intersection of Magnolia Avenue and Arlington Avenue, killing Officer Michael Crain and wounding his partner, Officer Andrew Tachias, so severely that he is now paralyzed from the neck down.

After an extensive manhunt in the Big Bear area, on February 12, 2013, while law enforcement was in pursuit of Christopher Jordan Dorner, he fled into an unoccupied cabin and barricaded himself inside and a shootout ensued. As a result, a fire erupted in the cabin while the suspect was still inside. After an autopsy was conducted a determination was made that the charred remains found inside the cabin were that of Christopher Jordan Dorner and that the cause of death was suicide from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

On February 12, 2013, on motion by Supervisors Antonovich and Ridley-Thomas, your Board offered a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the capture of Christopher Jordan Dorner, a former LAPD Officer who was responsible for injuring an LAPD officer, and the murders of the Riverside Police Officer, and daughter of a retired LAPD Captain and her fiancé, during the killing spree which began on February 3, 2013.

The reward offered called for information to be provided to law enforcement no later than May 13, 2013 and claims to be filed on July 12, 2013. Four claims were filed as follows, all meeting the claim filling deadline:

- Karen and Jim Reynolds on March 8, 2013
- Rick Heltebrake on March 13, 2013
- Daniel J. McGowan April 16, 2013
- Mary and Eligio (Ely) Ramirez on July 12, 2013

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

The Reward Committee comprised of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board, met and reviewed the claims filed for the reward funds. In addition, the Committee considered reports provided by various law enforcement agencies, the sworn declaration of Deputy Paul Franklin, and the decision of the three-judge panel assembled to determine the distribution of the reward offered by multiple public and private entities. The Committee is recommending that the reward funds in the total amount of \$100,000 be awarded to Karen and Jim Reynolds and Daniel McGowan.

The Reward Committee's recommendation and the facts on each of the claims in which the recommendation is based is as follows:

- Daniel J. McGowan recommended to receive 20% of the reward.

On February 7, 2013, Mr. McGowan, while using the fire road in the Big Bear Lake area to access the top of Snow Summit where he worked, discovered the burned out truck driven by Dorner, and

through his security department at Snow Summit, notified law enforcement of the location of the burned out truck. The information provided by Mr. McGowan gave law enforcement their first solid evidence of the status of Dorner in the Big Bear Lake area. In addition, law enforcement was able to ascertain an assessment of what weapons he may have had in his possession, after searching and discovering weapons in the vehicle. This discovery initiated the focused search for Dorner in the Big Bear area.

- Karen and Jim Reynolds recommended to receive 80% of the reward.

On February 12, 2013, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds were confronted by Dorner when they entered their cabin, located in the Big Bear area. Dorner held the couple by gunpoint, tied them up, and stole their vehicle. The Reynolds, after escaping their restraints, immediately contacted law enforcement informing them of the events and providing a description of their vehicle. Approximately 23 minutes following their report, law enforcement positively identified the vehicle being driven by Dorner and gave chase. The description of their stolen vehicle which was dispatched to law enforcement, resulted in the positive identification and pursuit of Dorner.

- Rick Heltebrake not eligible for the reward.

Mr. Heltebrake resides in a cabin located in Camp Thaquitz, where he is employed by the Long Beach Area Council, Boy Scouts of America as a full-time Ranger.

On February 12, 2013, During his patrol of the property while traveling on Glass Road, Dorner jumped out of a snow bank and pointed a firearm at Mr. Heltebrake, ordered him out and commandeered his vehicle to continue fleeing from law enforcement. Mr. Heltebrake, used his cellular telephone to contact Deputy Sheriff Franklin. Deputy Franklin reports that Mr. Heltebrake informed him that he had just been carjacked by Dorner and heard a volley of shots from the direction his pickup truck had been driven by Dorner. Therefore, although Mr. Heltebrake contacted law enforcement, Dorner was already being pursued by law enforcement. Accordingly, Mr. Heltebrake did not provide additional information that lead to the capture of Dorner.

- Mary and Ely Ramirez not eligible for the reward.

On February 12, 2013, Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez were stopped and questioned by law enforcement on Glass Road following the exchange of gunfire after Dorner crashed the vehicle of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds. Mr. Ramirez reported Doerner's possible direction of travel to law enforcement. However, at this time, law enforcement was already in pursuit of Dorner.

In addition, on February 15, 2013, Mr. Ramirez located Dorner's handgun at the site of the crash where the shootout took place. Mr. Ramirez tried to contact San Bernardino County Deputy Sheriff Franklin to inform him, but was unsuccessful. He asked Mrs. Ramirez to send a text to Deputy Sheriff Franklin informing him of the gun found. At this point, however, Dorner had already been located by law enforcement several days earlier. Therefore, Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez are not entitled to a portion of the reward.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal of Operational Effectiveness. Publication in local newspapers and posting of reward notices on the County website encouraged persons to provide information to law enforcement, which could lead to the arrest and/or conviction of the individual(s) 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 \$100,000 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 \$20,000 from each Board 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.

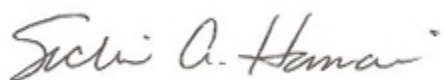
The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and specifically Section 4.50.010B which states, "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes 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' web site and published in the Los Angeles Times, San Bernardino County Sun, The Orange County Register and the Press Enterprise. 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.

Respectfully submitted,



SACHI A. HAMAI

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

SAH

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