



PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

January 05, 2016

#19

January 5, 2016

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


PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS RELATING TO UNIQUE RUSSELL (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Board approval is being requested for the distribution of reward funds in the amount of \$20,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in the amount of \$20,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds, to an individual who provided information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and conviction of Michael Staton and Jasper Jones, who shot and killed Unique Russell and injured Rekeil Reeves and Freddy Pickett.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On July 4, 2012, at approximately 10:20 p.m., Unique Russell was with friends and family members attending an annual block party celebrating the 4th of July holiday. Ms. Russell, along with her cousins, Rekeil Reeves and Freddy Pickett, were struck by gunfire as they watched fireworks in front of 1346 West 97th Street in unincorporated West Athens. On July 10, 2012, the Board approved a reward for \$10,000 and on January 29, 2013 increased the reward to \$20,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the death and injuries.

During the investigation, a witness contacted Los Angeles Department Sheriff's Department Investigators, who believe the witness provided crucial information that was immediately investigated and verified through undisclosed investigation operations. The witness cooperated with Investigators throughout this case and continues to do so to this day.

On December 14, 2013, Investigators arrested Michael Staton and Jasper Jones, an accomplice. The witness testified against both suspects during trial. On March 12, 2015, guilty verdicts were handed down by jurors. Michael Staton was convicted of murder 187PC and attempted murder 664PC, and sentenced to 50 years to life. Jasper Jones was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 24 years.

A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Office, County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claim filed for the reward fund. The panel is recommending the \$20,000 reward be awarded to the claimant who provided information to law enforcement. In accordance with the provision of the Los Angeles Code, Title 4 – Revenue and Finance, the 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 individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life for residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$20,000 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 \$4,000 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 case 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 Daily Breeze.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick Ogawa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

PATRICK OGAWA
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

PO:sr

c: Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller