



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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February 02, 2010

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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

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February 2, 2010

Sachi A. Hamai
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS RELATING TO THE MURDER OF GLORIA GAXIOLA (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Board approval is being requested for the distribution of reward funds in the amount of \$5,000 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 the total amount of \$5,000, 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 Abraham Ruben Acuna, Matthew Andrew Garcia and Victor Manuel Monge who were responsible for the murder of Gloria Gaxiola.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On Saturday, October 12, 2002, at approximately 5:22 a.m. Gloria Gaxiola's body was discovered lying in the street of the southbound lanes of Hacienda Blvd. near Colima Rd., located in the unincorporated area of Hacienda Heights. Initially it was believed that Ms. Gaxiola was a victim of a vehicle vs. pedestrian hit and run accident due to massive trauma to her head and body.

The investigation revealed that Ms. Gaxiola was strangled, shot in the head and dragged by a vehicle for approximately 4 1/2 miles from Turnbull Cyn./Skyline Dr. to Hacienda Blvd./Colima Rd.

In November 2002, investigators spoke with the Claimant who provided information that would later become very valuable. The Claimant told investigators that while on his way to work traveling south on Hacienda Blvd. approaching Colima Rd., he witnessed a female being dragged from the side of a vehicle.

The Claimant indicated the vehicle stopped at the intersection of Hacienda Blvd. and Colima Rd. after alerting the persons in the vehicle by honking his horn and flashing his lights. Due to the circumstances and fear, the Claimant did not stop or confront the persons in the vehicle. The Claimant did however, obtain a description of the vehicle and of the male driver and female passenger.

After extensive media coverage, Investigators were provided with very few leads. Therefore, on March 11, 2003, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board offered a \$5,000 reward in order to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau in obtaining information relative to this case.

In January 2007, Investigators located an informant who provided specific details about the crime, which corroborated the information provided by the Claimant that in fact there was a male driver and female passenger in the vehicle.

After numerous interviews and corroboration of all information and evidence, investigators were able to identify and arrest Abraham Ruben Acuna, Matthew Andrew Garcia, and Victor Manuel Monge. These three suspects were arrested on suspicion of murder and possession of a firearm.

On June 14, 2009, all three defendants were found guilty for the murder of Ms. Gaxiola, based upon the evidence and testimony the Claimant presented. On July 8, 2009, the court sentenced Mr. Acuna to 55 years to life, Mr. Garcia to 75 years to life; and Mr. Monge to 80 years to life.

Following the conviction of the defendants, the Claimant was instructed to file a claim with the Executive Office of the Board. However, the claim filing period expired on August 8, 2003. Therefore, on July 28, 2009, the Board, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, approved the reestablishment of the \$5,000 reward for the purpose of allowing the individual to file a claim who offered information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and/or conviction of the persons responsible for the death of Gloria Gaxiola.

On October 28, 2009, a claim was filed with the Executive Office of the Board on behalf of the Claimant.

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 to be paid to the individual who provided information to law enforcement.

In accordance with the provision 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 \$5,000 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 \$1,000 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.

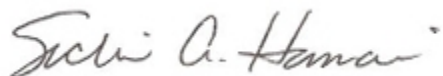
The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and specifically Section 4.50.010B which states, "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes 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 San Gabriel Valley Tribune newspaper. 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:am

c: Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller