

Reward Offer in the Homicide Investigation of Murder Victim Ismael Zabala

On Sunday, December 20, 2020, at approximately 2:30 a.m., Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputies responded to an assault, gunshot victim call in the 400 block of West Avenue J-12 in the City of Lancaster. Responding deputies found 26-year-old Ismael Zabala suffering from a single gunshot wound to the upper torso. Victim Zabala was transported to a local hospital and was subsequently pronounced deceased. A second victim, Ismael Zabala’s brother, Charlie Zabala was also struck by gunfire. Charlie was also transported to a local hospital and his injuries were determined to be non-life threatening.

It was later learned Victim Zabala was attending a cousin’s birthday party and was murdered in front of his family members while standing at the front door of the residence. Mr. Zabala was recently honorably discharged from the United States Army and his family is completely distraught by this senseless tragedy.

During the investigation, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Homicide Investigators (LASD Investigators) identified Oscar Palazuelos and Ervin Alvarez as being involved in Ismael Zabala’s murder and willful injury to his brother, Charlie Zabala. Warrants for the arrest of the two suspects for murder and felon in possession of a firearm were issued for each suspect. Ervin Alvarez was subsequently located and arrested, and Oscar Palazuelos remains outstanding.

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

June 22, 2021

Page 2

To date, LASD Investigators have not been able to locate Oscar Palazuelos and believe he knows he is wanted and has gone into hiding.

LASD Investigators believe it would now be appropriate to offer a reward in this case to stimulate communications in the neighborhood and to bring attention to the incident. Additionally, LASD Investigators believe a substantial reward of at least \$10,000 would stimulate communication with the area of the shooting and cause the community to come forward with information that would assist Investigators gathering additional information on this homicide and the arrest of Suspect Oscar Palazuelos. Any individuals with information about this crime are urged to contact LASD or Crime Stoppers.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors offer a reward in the amount of \$10,000 in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the perpetrators responsible for the heinous murder of 26-year-old Ismael Zabala and the willful injury to his brother, Charlie Zabala.

CONTACTS:

LASD/Homicide Bureau

Lt. Derrick Alfred

Office: (323) 890-5554

Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers Hotline

(800) 222-TIPS (8477)

<http://lacrimestoppers.org>

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