

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1411 • www.bos.lacounty.gov

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

LINDSEY P. HORVATH

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

January 24, 2023

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:

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

16 January 24, 2023

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS  
RELATING TO MARCUS NIETO  
(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 the individual who provided information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and conviction of Michael Spengler, who was convicted for the murder of Marcus Nieto.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On February 16, 2013, two riders on horseback discovered 27-year-old Marcus Nieto's body on the Altadena Crest horse trail. Investigators confirmed Marcus Nieto was last seen alive at his residence on February 15, 2013 and visited an acquaintance in the City of Pomona but may have returned to the Covina/Azusa area at some point before he went missing. The Medical Examiner-Coroner determined the cause of death to be a homicide.

On April 1, 2014, the Board approved a \$20,000 reward in exchange for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) responsible for the homicide of Marcus Nieto. The reward was reestablished on July 1, 2014 and extended on September 23, 2014, March 24, 2015,

September 22, 2015, and March 8, 2016. The reward was also reestablished on January 17, 2017, and February 27, 2018, for the purpose of allowing the claimant to provide information that led to the apprehension of the suspect.

Detectives initially interviewed Michael Spengler as a possible suspect but did not have enough evidence. On September 1, 2016, the claimant contacted the Detectives in this case to provide information leading to murder charges being filed against suspect Michael Spengler and assisted law enforcement to obtain essential evidence.

On October 28, 2016, charges were filed by the District Attorney's Office. Based on the evidence obtained by the claimant, a preliminary hearing was conducted on December 20, 2017, at the Criminal Court, where the claimant testified.

On April 29, 2022, Mr. Spengler was convicted of murder charges and on July 6, 2022, he was sentenced to life without parole.

A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff Department, Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Executive Office of the Board reviewed the claim filed for the reward funds. The panel is recommending the \$20,000 reward be distributed to the claimant who provided information to law enforcement. In accordance with the provisions of the Los Angeles County Code (County Code), Title 4 – Revenue and Finance, the Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for the distribution of the reward funds.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal II.2 – Support the Wellness of our Communities. 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 and removing such individuals from the community, thereby reducing violence and improving the quality of life for the residents of Los Angeles County.

### **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 cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts causing injury to persons or property. 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, 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

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

1/24/2023

Page 3

persons.”

The Notice of Reward offered was posted on the Board of Supervisors’ website and published in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune newspaper.

**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 cursive script, appearing to read "Celia Zavala".

CELIA ZAVALA

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

CZ:am

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