

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

25 June 25, 2024

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

June 25, 2024

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:

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS
RELATING TO JUAN MANUEL VIDAL
(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 two individuals who provided information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and conviction of Louie Francisco Herrera, who was convicted for the heinous murder of Juan Manuel Vidal.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On Friday, October 21, 2016, Juan Manuel Vidal was fatally shot while working at a Jack in the Box restaurant located in a strip mall at the 9200 block of Flair Drive in the City of El Monte. Mr. Vidal and a fellow employee of the restaurant were held at gun point by an adult male who used a Halloween mask and a baseball cap as a disguise. The suspect demanded Mr. Vidal hand over the restaurant's money, and then shot Mr. Vidal once in the upper torso. The suspect then jumped over the counter and fled the scene, running north onto Flair Drive towards his getaway vehicle.

On November 1, 2016, the Board approved a \$20,000 reward in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the heinous murder of Mr. Vidal. The reward was reestablished on March 21, 2017.

Detectives released a portion of the surveillance video from the Jack in the Box restaurant, showing the suspect who fatally shot Mr. Vidal. After viewing the press release, on November 6, 2016, Claimant No. 1 contacted the Detectives and provided the suspect's name, description, and that the suspect had disclosed to Claimant No. 1 that he had committed robberies in the San Gabriel Valley Area. On December 10, 2016, Claimant No. 2 also contacted the Detectives and identified the suspect and informed them that the suspect had admitted to Claimant No. 2 that he had killed Mr. Vidal, while attempting to rob the Jack in the Box restaurant located in the City of El Monte and had provided details related to the murder that matched evidence recovered at the scene. According to law enforcement, both claimants provided crucial information that led to the identity and conviction of the suspect, Louie Francisco Herrera.

On January 9, 2017, Louie Francisco Herrera was apprehended and was charged with murder with special allegations, and seven counts of robbery. Based on the evidence obtained by law enforcement, a jury trial was heard from June 14, 2023 through June 30, 2023. On June 30, 2023, Louie Francisco Herrera was convicted of murder in the first-degree, and seven counts of attempted robbery. On September 12, 2023, the suspect was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, plus 25 years to life for the murder, and 24 years for the attempted robberies.

A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff's Department, Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Executive Office of the Board, reviewed the claims filed for the reward funds. The panel is recommending the \$20,000 reward be distributed between the two claimants who provided information to law enforcement, with \$10,000 (50%) to Claimant No. 1 and \$10,000 (50%) to Claimant No. 2. In accordance with the provision of the Los Angeles County Code (County Code), Title 4 – Revenue and Finance, the Board must now consider the claims 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's 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 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 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 black ink that reads "Edward Yen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Edward Yen

Executive Officer

EY:CG

c: Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller