

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

August 6, 2024

Re-establish the Reward Offer in the Murder of Tauvaaga (Judy) Lauvai

On Saturday, June 16, 2018, at approximately 8:55 p.m., 53-year-old Tauvaaga Lauvai, also known as Judy, was shot and killed while on the front porch of her family's residence located on the 22700 block of Island Avenue in the City of Carson. Judy was visiting from out-of-state for an early Father's Day celebration with her family when an unknown suspect(s) stopped their light-colored four-door sedan in front of the residence. The suspect(s) fired multiple gunshots toward the family, striking Judy and grazing a family member's leg, before fleeing southbound on Island Avenue. Judy was transported to St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, where she ultimately succumbed to her injury.

At the time of her murder, Judy had been married for 28 years and was devoted to her four adult children and extended family, as well as to her church. She was a graduate of Carson High School and had spent over 50 years of her life as a resident of the City of Carson. She was employed as an Administrative Assistant for the University Technology Office at Arizona State University. Judy's family is devastated by the loss and has been very helpful during the investigation.

To date, investigators have received no viable clues regarding this tragedy. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) detectives believe that there are witnesses in the neighborhood that may have seen the suspect(s) leave the area or know of their identity. Any individuals with information about this crime are urged to contact

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

LASD's Homicide Bureau or Crime Stoppers.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established a reward offer on July 24, 2018, in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of the person(s) responsible for the death of Tauvaaga (Judy) Lauvai. The reward offer was extended on October 16, 2018; April 16, 2019; September 24, 2019; October 27, 2020; May 4, 2021; and July 27, 2021, and was re-established on April 14, 2020; August 4, 2020; February 8, 2022; May 17, 2023; July 25, 2023; and December 19, 2023. This reward expired on May 16, 2024, and needs to be re-established. The detectives assigned to this case recommend that this reward be re-established to help solve the crime and bring some sense of closure and justice to the family.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Re-establish the offer of a reward in the amount of \$20,000 in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the heinous death of 53-year-old Tauvaaga Lauvai, also known as Judy, who was shot and killed on June 16, 2018, at approximately 8:55 p.m., while on the front porch of her family's residence located on the 22700 block of Island Avenue in the City of Carson.

Contact: Detective Scott Matlock - or - Crime Stoppers
 Los Angeles Sheriffs' Department (800) 222-8477
 Homicide Bureau
 (323) 890-5500

#

(CAS)