



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

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May 5, 2026

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

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS  
RELATING TO RENE ALEJANDRO LUPIAN  
(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 YOUR 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 Abraham Cabera, Wayne Seare, and Samantha Castillo, who were convicted for the heinous robbery and murder of Rene Alejandro Lupian.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On Wednesday, November 7, 2018, Rene Alejandro Lupian was brutally attacked and robbed as he was walking home from work in the area of 941 S. Concourse Avenue in the City of Los Angeles.

On December 18, 2018, 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. Lupian.

On December 20, 2018, the Claimant came to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office (LASO) Homicide Bureau on their own accord and spoke with detective about their knowledge of the case. The Claimant's statement was recorded and documented in a supplemental

police report. That statement led to the arrest of three suspects involved in the robbery and murder of Mr. Lupian. According to law enforcement, the Claimant provided crucial information that led to the identity and conviction of the suspects Abraham Cabrera, Wayne Seare and Samantha Castillo.

On December 21, 2018, Abraham Cabrera was apprehended and charged with murder in the first degree, robbery in the second degree and personal use of a firearm allegation. Based on the evidence obtained by law enforcement, a jury trial was heard and on October 30, 2024, Abraham Cabrera was convicted of murder in the first degree, robbery in the second degree, and personal use of firearm allegation. On December 5, 2025, the suspect was sentenced to 29 years to life.

On December 21, 2018, Wayne Seare was apprehended and charged with robbery in the second degree and principal armed with firearm allegation. On February 6, 2020, Wayne Seare entered a plea agreement and was convicted of robbery in the second degree and principal armed with firearm allegation. On July 27, 2020, the suspect was sentenced to 6 years.

On January 9, 2019, Samantha Castillo was apprehended and charged with robbery in the second degree and principal armed with firearm allegation. On February 6, 2020, Samantha Castillo entered a plea agreement and was convicted of robbery in the second degree and principal armed with firearm allegation. On July 27, 2020, the suspect was sentenced to 6 years.

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 to the Claimant who provided information to law enforcement. In accordance with the provision 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 North Star 2 (Foster vibrant and resilient communities) under C. Public Safety. 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.

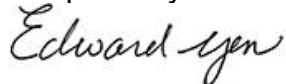
The action recommended is in compliance with County Code, Title 4 – Revenue and Finance, relating to rewards, specifically Section 4.50.010B, which states, “conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes a 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 La Opinion newspaper.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of this recommendation does not impact other current County services or projects.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Yen, Executive Officer

c: Sheriff  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller