

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

June 9, 2026

Reward Reestablishment in the Homicide Investigation of Salvador Esparza III

On Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at approximately 10:40 p.m., Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) deputies were dispatched to the 300 block of West Figueroa Drive in unincorporated Altadena. Responding deputies found 4-year-old Salvador Esparza III lying on the front porch suffering from a single gunshot wound to his head. Victim Esparza was transported to Huntington Memorial Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Another gunshot victim, a 27-year-old African American male was also found lying on the front porch and was transported to Huntington Memorial Hospital where he was treated for his injury.

According to witnesses, the suspect was chasing the 27-year-old male onto the property and shot at him, striking both victims. The suspect then ran south on Olive Avenue.

LASD investigators believe the suspect to be a gang member, and the shooting is believed to be gang related. LASD investigators also believe that victim Esparza and his family were not the intended target.

Victim Esparza is survived by his parents and grandparents. The families who have been helpful during the investigation and remain in contact with the investigators are devastated by this senseless tragedy.

The Board approved the original \$20,000 reward on August 2, 2016. Subsequently, it was increased to \$25,000 on February 23, 2021, to \$50,000 on May 3, 2022, to \$75,000 on May 2, 2023, extended on November 7, 2023, extended on May 7, 2024, expired November 7, 2024, reestablished July 29, 2025, and expired January 25, 2026. LASD

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HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

Investigators remain hopeful that reestablishing the reward will bring forth witnesses to help solve this crime and bring this very distraught family justice and closure.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD reestablish and increase the reward previously offered in the amount of \$75,000 to \$85,000 in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the perpetrator(s) responsible for the heinous murder of 4-year-old Salvador Esparza III.

CONTACTS:

LASD/Homicide Bureau

Sergeant John Ganarial

Office: (323) 890-5500

Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers Hotline

(800) 222-TIPS (8477)

<http://lacrimestoppers.org>

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