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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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August 04, 2009

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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

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August 4, 2009

Sachi A. Hamai
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS RELATING TO THE MURDER OF ELIZABETH SANDOVAL (ALL DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Board approval is being requested for the distribution of reward funds in the amount of \$10,000 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 total amount of \$10,000, 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 Mr. Ara Grigoryan who was responsible for the fatal hit and run of Elizabeth Sandoval on July 10, 2007 at the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Windsor Street in the City of Glendale at approximately 9:45 p.m.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On July 10, 2007, Elizabeth Sandoval, a resident of Glendale, and her friend were crossing Glendale Avenue at Windsor Street when she was struck by a 2003 black 4-door Mercedes-Benz S430, license plate O7TT77, which was driving south bound on Glendale Avenue at a high rate of speed. Glendale Police Department investigators developed information identifying Mr. Ara Grigoryan of Glendale as a person of interest.

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On July 17, 2007, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board offered a \$10,000 reward in order to assist the Glendale Police Department in obtaining information relative to this case. The filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward money expired on December 14, 2007.

In accordance with provisions of Los Angeles County Code, Title 4 – Revenue and Finance, your Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for distribution of the reward funds.

A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claim filed for the reward fund. The panel is recommending the reward be paid to the individual who provided information to law enforcement.

The following is a chronology of events in this case:

At approximately 9:45 p.m. on July 10, 2007, 24-year-old Glendale resident Elizabeth Sandoval and her friend were crossing Glendale Avenue at Windsor Street in the City of Glendale, when Ms. Sandoval was struck by a 2003 black 4-door Mercedes-Benz S430, license plate O7TT77, which was driving south bound on Glendale Avenue at a high rate of speed. Glendale Police Department investigators developed information identifying Mr. Ara Grigoryan of Glendale as a person of interest.

On July 12 and 13, 2007, the Reward Claimant (Claimant) contacted the Glendale Police Department and confirmed that Mr. Grigoryan was involved in the fatal hit and run accident of Ms. Sandoval. In addition, the Claimant provided investigators with additional information relating to the case, including Mr. Grigoryan's address and that he fled to Mexico. Based on the information provided by the Claimant investigators were able to obtain an arrest warrant on July 14, 2007.

On July 17, 2007, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board approved the establishment of a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of the person or persons responsible for the fatal hit and run of Ms. Sandoval which occurred at approximately 9:45 p.m. on July 10, 2007 at the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Windsor Street in the City of Glendale. The deadline to file a claim with the Executive Office of the Board was December 14, 2007.

On July 18, 2007, Glendale Police Department investigators were informed that a person matching the description of Mr. Grigoryan was in custody in Mexico City. Upon verification that the person detained by Mexican Authorities was Mr. Grigoryan, United States Marshal's transported him back to the United States and released him to the custody of the Glendale Police Department.

On September 13, 2007, the Executive Office of the Board received a claim from an individual who wishes to remain anonymous who assisted in the investigation and provided information to law enforcement which lead to the apprehension and conviction of Mr. Grigoryan.

On December 19, 2007 a Preliminary Hearing was held and Mr. Grigoryan was charged with violating Penal Code Section No. 187(a).

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In March of 2009, Mr. Grigoryan pled to the charges of violating Penal Code Section No. 192(c)(1) and Vehicle Code Section 20001(a).

On May 1, 2009, Mr. Grigoryan was convicted and sentenced to a term of 11 years in State prison for violating Penal Code Section No. 192(c)(1).

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal of Service Excellence. 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 the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life to residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$10,000 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 \$2,000 from each member's account.

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/or conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts. 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 Los Angeles County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance, 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' web site and published in the Glendale News Press Newspaper. In addition, copies were provided to the Glendale Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current County services.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sachi A. Hamai".

SACHI A. HAMAI

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

SAH:am

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