



SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

April 03, 2012

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

#9 April 3, 2012

Sachi A. Hamai
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS RELATING TO THE MURDER OF MELODY ROSS (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 total amount of \$20,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds, to two individuals in equal amounts of \$10,000 each, who provided information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and conviction of the persons responsible for the murder of Melody Ross.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On October 30, 2009, at approximately 10:00 p.m., an unidentified shooter fired into a group outside of Wilson High School following the homecoming football game on Friday night. In addition to hitting Melody Ross, two other men, ages 18 and 20, were wounded in the gunfire. Melody Ross was transported to St. Mary's Hospital, but succumbed to her injuries at 10:30 p.m. On November 3, 2009, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board offered a \$20,000 reward in order to assist the Long Beach Police Homicide Bureau in obtaining information relative to this case.

During the investigation, two witnesses came forward and were instrumental in the apprehension/conviction of two defendants. These witnesses filed a claim for the reward with the Board of Supervisors, Executive Office on July 21, 2010.

The Detective from the Homicide Detail of the Long Beach Police Department believes that both witnesses, equally provided testimony at the preliminary hearing and the trial which lead to the apprehension and conviction of two defendants.

As a result of this information, two suspects were arrested Tom Vinson and Davion Davis (Defendants). Tom Vinson was convicted of one count of first degree murder, two counts of attempted murder, one count of attempted involuntary manslaughter all with gun enhancements and gang allegations and on December 19, 2011 he was sentenced to 155 years to life. Davion Davis pled guilty to manslaughter and was given a sentence of eight years in exchange for his testimony on September 12, 2011.

On March 1, 2012 a panel of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Office, County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claim filed for the reward fund. The panel is recommending the reward be divided equally between the two individuals who provided information to law enforcement.

In accordance with the provision of the 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.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the 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 enforcements which could lead to the apprehension and/or conviction of the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life for residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

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 Supervisors' budget. The two witnesses will receive \$10,000 each.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code establishing procedures for offering case 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 the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and 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 Press Telegram. In addition, copies were provided to the Long Beach Police Department Homicide

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

4/3/2012

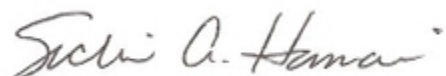
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Detail.

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 cursive script that reads "Sachi A. Hamai".

SACHI A. HAMAI

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

SAH:JL

c: Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel