



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

383 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(213) 974-1411

November 18, 2003

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 IN THE MATTER OF THE SHOOTING
OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF DEPUTY ANGEL DOMINGUEZ

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in total amount of \$5,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds, to the individual who provided information to the Sheriff's Department that led to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for shooting Sheriff Deputy Angel Dominguez.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On April 13, 2001, Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy Angel Dominguez was shot in the neck and injured during a routine traffic stop at the intersection of Norwalk Blvd. and Abingdon St., in the City of Norwalk.

On April 24, 2001, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, your Board established a \$5,000 reward fund for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for shooting and injuring Deputy Dominguez.

After the reward was offered, an individual came forward and provided the Sheriff's Department investigators with detailed, specific and accurate information relating to the attempted murder of Deputy Dominguez. The Sheriff's Department, acting upon this information was able to arrest Jose Arzate as the suspect.

On July 17, 2001, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, your Board extended the period to provide information to law enforcement. However, due to an oversight, the individual did not file a claim for the reward offer and subsequently the reward offer expired.

The informant testified in the trial heard in Norwalk Superior Court, as a prosecution witness. On October 24, 2002, as a result of the information provided to law enforcement and testimony during the trial, Jose Arzate was found guilty of the attempted murder of Deputy Dominguez and sentenced to 40 years to life in State prison.

Since the reward offer extended by the Board on July 17, 2001 expired, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board on February 18, 2003 reinstated the \$5,000 reward to allow the Sheriff's Department to file a claim on behalf of the individual.

In 1993 the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code which established 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.

A panel made up of individuals representing the Sheriff, the Chief Administrative Officer, the County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claim filed by the Sheriff's Department on behalf of the individual for the reward fund. The panel has recommended that the \$5,000 be awarded to the individual.

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 arrest and conviction of the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life of all citizens.

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FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$5,000 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 \$1,000 from each member's account.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards.

A notice of the reward was published in the Daily Commerce, Press Telegram and La Opinion. In addition, the reward notice was posted on the Board of Supervisors' web site. The original filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward money originally expired on September 21, 2001 and was extended by Board Order No. 45 of July 17, 2001 to December 14, 2001 and reinstated by Board Order No. 6 of February 18, 2003 to allow the Sheriff's Department to file a claim on behalf of the individual.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current County services.

Respectfully submitted,



VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment

R:\Reward Letters\Reward letter regarding Angel Dominguez.DOC

c: District Attorney
Sheriff
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller