

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the payment of a reward for information leading to the identification, arrest, and conviction of the person responsible for the murders of Mr. Carlos Hernandez and Mr. Alejandro Garcia.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. APPROVE payments to two claimants of a total reward offer in the amount of \$75,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest, and conviction of the person responsible for the shooting deaths of Mr. Carlos Hernandez and Mr. Alejandro Garcia on March 13, 2009.
2. INSTRUCT the City Clerk to:
 - a. Transfer \$75,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Unappropriated Balance and APPROPRIATE therefrom to the Special Reward Trust Fund No. 436/14.
 - b. Transfer \$75,000 from the Special Reward Trust Fund No. 436/14, Account No. XXXXXX to the Police Department Fund No. 100/70, Secret Service Account No. 004310.
3. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to make the appropriate reward payments.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by LAPD. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

In a report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated September 11, 2014 (attached to the Council file), LAPD recommends payment of a reward offer for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the murder of Mr. Carlos Hernandez and Mr. Alejandro Garcia. According to LAPD, on March 13, 2009, at approximately 3:15 p.m., Carlos Hernandez and Alejandro Garcia were walking in front of Piedmont Park in Highland. The victims were approached by several males who were in a larger group inside the park. A physical altercation ensued between the victims and at least two other males. During the altercation, one of the males armed himself with a handgun and shot and killed both victims.

On April 7, 2009, Council offered a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the shooter. Witnesses identified the shooter from a photo line-up. Felix Gomez was identified by the witnesses as the shooter. Mr. Gomez was placed under arrest. At his preliminary trial on January 26, 2010, the witnesses testified, identifying the defendant as the shooter in this case. In June, 2014, the defendant reached a plea agreement for two counts of manslaughter, and other offenses, and was sentenced to 21 years in prison.

The LAPD believes that the witnesses qualify for the reward offer. The information they provided led to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the defendant. On September 23, 2014,

the Board approved LAPD's recommendation.

At its meeting held December 12, 2014, the Public Safety Committee recommended that Council approve the payment of this reward offer, as recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
BONIN:	ABSENT
O'FARRELL:	YES
MARTINEZ:	ABSENT

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-