

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

21-004 E  
RICHARD M. TEFANK DATE 12/16/21  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 16, 2020  
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RECEIVED  
JAN 06 2021  
POLICE COMMISSION

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD FOR DR NO. 19-18-16622

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE the attached Application for Special Reward Payment.
2. That the Board TRANSMIT to the Mayor and City Council the Application for Special Reward Payment for review and approval.

**DISCUSSION**

It is requested that the Board approve and transmit to the City Council the recommendation to approve this reward offer to be paid to Claimant in the sum of \$50,000. The Claimant provided information that was vital to the arrest and conviction of the suspect responsible for the Vehicular Homicide of Keisha Saravia and her unborn child (Baby Lyia Saravia Holms). On Friday, July 26, 2019, at approximately 2205 hours, a traffic collision occurred on Main Street south of 117<sup>th</sup> Street, where a vehicle collided with a 9-month pregnant pedestrian crossing the street.

South Traffic Police Officer III+I Carol Mitchell, Serial No. 32948 and I, Detective Keith Gonzales, Serial No. 36547 responded to the crime scene.

On Wednesday, August 14, 2019, South Traffic detectives held a press conference with the family of Keisha Saravia and Baby Lyia to announce the reward, and appeal to the public for help. On Thursday, February 20, 2020, Detective Gonzales, received a phone call from Detective Sean Judd, Serial No. 342 with the Hawthorne Police Department. Detective Judd advised that he had just interviewed the witness whom had information regarding this case. On February 20, 2020, Detective II Michael Flannery, Serial No. 36629 and Detective Gonzales conducted a follow-up to the Hawthorne Police Station to meet with the witness. The witness stated that the driver responsible was Cristian Mendoza-Orellana and provided a photo of the suspect's vehicle described as a Pontiac G8. Based on the information provided by the witness, detectives were able to locate the involved vehicle and formulate a plan to arrest Mendoza-Orellana.

On February 27, 2020, detectives conducted a follow-up to the suspect's place of employment and detained Mendoza-Orellana. He later admitted to driving the vehicle at the time of the collision. Mendoza-Orellana was arrested and charged with Felony Hit and Run causing death. On March 2, 2020, the case was presented to Deputy District Attorney Brittany Vannoy.

Deputy District Attorney Vannoy filed two counts 187(A)PC Murder. On November 4, 2020, Mendoza-Orellana was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in state prison, Case Number COMTA15150501. South Traffic Detectives are thankful for the witness's bravery, and assistance in bringing this case to a successful resolution.

It is the opinion of the investigating detectives and the Deputy District Attorney assigned to this case that the information provided by the Claimant was vital in the arrest and conviction of the suspect, Cristian Mendoza-Orellana. The claimant provided vital information that resulted in the arrest and conviction of the suspect. South Traffic Division Detectives believe the claimant has met the requirements and is eligible to receive the reward payment.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact lead investigator Detective Keith Gonzales, South Traffic Division, at (323) 421-2500.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE  
Chief of Police

BOARD OF  
POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
Approved *January 13, 2024*  
Secretary *Maria Selva*

Attachment

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL REWARD PAYMENT

DISTRIBUTION  
ORIG - LAPD  
DUPE - City Clerk  
DUPE - Claimant

Neither the filing nor submitting of information, nor the receipt or consideration thereof by the City, shall establish legal claim to, or right of recovery of, any reward offered. The provision of payment shall be governed by Chapter 12, Division 19 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

1. PRINT NAME OF APPLICANT:  
Last, [REDACTED] First, [REDACTED] Middle, [REDACTED]

2. ADDRESS: (Street) [REDACTED] (City) [REDACTED] (State - Z) [REDACTED]  
Daytime Phone & Contact Person [REDACTED]

3. TODAY'S DATE: 03/03/2020

4. OCCUPATION: Student

5. DRIVER'S LICENSE # or CALIF ID #: [REDACTED]

6. SOCIAL SECURITY #: (For payment purposes) [REDACTED]

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES (fill in or mail, fill in or mail)

NOTE: The applicant is responsible for providing ALL of the following required information. A claim that does not provide the following required information may be disapproved for insufficient information.

7. DATE OF INCIDENT: 07/26/2019

8. TIME OF INCIDENT: 1005  AM  PM  
 NOON  MIDNIGHT

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Main Street and 117 Street

TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Fatal hit and run

9. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Victim was crossing the street on foot. The suspect drove in the center median around a vehicle that stopped for the victim. The suspect collided with the victim and fled the scene.

12. X [REDACTED] APPLICANT SIGNATURE

13. X [REDACTED] PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (under 18 years)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Name Detective Keith Gonzales Serial # 36547 Agency LAPD STD  
Phone # (213)842-3917 OR 323-421-2500

NAME OF VICTIM OR CASE:  
Keisha Saravia and Lyiah K. Saravia Holmes

RECOMMENDATION:  APPROVAL  DISAPPROVAL INVESTIGATION CHECKLIST ATTACHED:  Yes  No  
 INSUFFICIENT INVOLVEMENT  
 INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

BRIEF EXPLANATION OR COMMENTS:

[REDACTED] was friends with a passenger that was in the vehicle at the time of the incident. [REDACTED] provided me with a photo of the suspect and the suspect's vehicle. Based off the information provided by [REDACTED] the suspect was arrested and his vehicle was recovered. The information [REDACTED] provided led to the arrest and conviction of the suspect.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

RECEIVED  
MAY 28 2020  
SOUTH TRAFFIC DIVISION

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
REWARD CLAIM CHECKLIST**

**This form must be submitted with the Department's recommendation concerning payment of the reward.  
One checklist must be submitted for each claimant.**

COUNCIL FILE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DR/AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 19-18-16622  
TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Hit and Run fatal REWARD AMOUNT: \$ 50,000.00  
REWARD EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/14/2019 REWARD EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
INFO RECEIVED WHILE REWARD IN EFFECT:  YES  NO DATE RECEIVED: 02/20/2020  
(Check one)  
CLAIMANT: \_\_\_\_\_ CLAIMANT'S OCCUPATION: Student  
(Name or "Anonymous." If multiple anonymous claimants, indicate as "Claimant A, Claimant B," etc.).  
CASE INVEST. BY: LAPD South Traffic CIFU OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Div/Section)  
Investigator(s) Assigned: Det. Gonzales 36547 Telephone: (323) 421-2500  
Det. Flannery 36629 Telephone: (323) 421-2500  
(Name and Serial No.)

The above claimant is  ELIGIBLE  NOT ELIGIBLE to receive payment of a reward pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code Division 19, Chapter 12, Sections 19.120 through 19.129.4.

**Reason(s) for claimant being NOT ELIGIBLE to receive payment**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claimant is a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee whose employment includes duties of law enforcement.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Claimant obtained information for a relative who is a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee, and that person obtained the information in the course of his/her employment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claimant is a dependent of a City Officer, employee, or public officer or employee whose duties include law enforcement.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Claimant has not provided continued cooperation within the criminal justice system relative to the case for which the offer of reward is made.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claimant has already been compensated by his/her employer in some other manner for the actions which are the basis for claiming the reward. | <input type="checkbox"/> Claimant is co-suspect in the crime for which the reward is offered.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The suspect would benefit from payment of the reward to the claimant.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The claimant is acting as an agent for the suspect.   |   |

Explanation:

(If additional space is needed, use next page.)

APPROVED BY

*Amigones*

RANK/TITLE

*DETECTIVE III*