

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

September 7, 2021

7.1

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF REWARD FOR DR NO. 19-17-11472

RECOMMENDATION 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 Francisco Hernandez Rivas.

On June 16, 2019, a fatal injury hit and run traffic collision occurred near the intersection of Haskell Avenue and Parthenia Street. Francisco Hernandez Rivas was driving westbound on Parthenia Street and was struck by a Lexus IS250. Both vehicles became disabled, and the driver of the Lexus, Maritza Lara, immediately fled the scene without rendering aid or identifying herself. Francisco Hernandez Rivas was pronounced dead at scene. The three passengers in the suspect's vehicle sustained severe injuries.

On July 3, 2019, Deputy District Attorney Higgins reviewed the case and filed one count of 187(a) California Penal Code Murder, one count of 20001(a) California Vehicle Code (CVC), Felony Hit and Run Causing Injury, and one count of 23153(g) CVC, Driving Under the Influence.

On August 8, 2019, Los Angeles Police Officer Salvador Reyes, Serial No. 40119, received a telephone call from a concerned citizen. The citizen advised that her aunt, the Claimant, was watching Spanish news when she saw a report regarding the fatal hit and run incident.

The Claimant identified the suspect, Maritza Lara was living in Mexico.

The United States (US) Marshals Service Task Force, Los Angeles Police Officer Adolfo Batres, Serial No. 34318, telephoned the Claimant and confirmed that Maritza Lara was in Mexico.

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

Page 2

7.1

Additionally, the Claimant provided investigators with current photographs of Maritza Luna and information regarding her plans to flee to El Salvador. Based on the information provided by the Claimant, investigators formulated a plan to arrest Maritza Lara.

On August 17, 2019, the US Marshals Service Task Force conducted a follow-up and arrested Maritza Lara. Lara admitted to being the driver of the vehicle that collided with Rivas.

On April 15, 2021, Maritza Lara was convicted and sentenced to 19 years and eight months in prison, Case Number XNVPA09303101.

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 Maritza Lara, making the Claimant eligible to receive the reward payment.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Detective Lisset Fuentes, Serial No. 35607, Valley Traffic Division, at (818) 644-8021.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MRM', is written over the printed name of Michel R. Moore.

MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachments

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, -- First Middle	
2. ADDRESS: (Street) (City) (State - Zip) Daytime Phone & Contact Person	
3. TODAY'S DATE: 06/01/2021	4. OCCUPATION:
5. DRIVER'S LICENSE # or CALIF ID #: None	6. SOCIAL SECURITY #: (For payment purposes)

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES: (Fill in or mark ALL that apply)

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: 06/16/2019	8. TIME OF INCIDENT: 0535 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> NOON <input type="checkbox"/> MIDNIGHT
LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Haskell & Parthenia	
TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Vehicular manslaughter	
9. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: V1, Northbound Haskell Ave, At A HIGH RATE OF SPEED, RAN A RED LIGHT AND COLLIDED WITH V2, WESTBOUND PARTHENIA. DRIVER OF V2, DIED AT SCENE. DRIVER OF V1 FLEW SCENE, TO MEXICO.	
12. X <u>OCCH</u> APPLICANT SIGNATURE	13. X PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (under 18 years)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Name Detective Sinclair Serial # 39576 Agency LAPD / VTD
Phone # (818)644-8020

NAME OF VICTIM OR CASE:
Francisco Hernandez Rivas

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

BRIEF EXPLANATION OR COMMENTS:

Lara was located and arrested for the murder of Francisco Hernandez Rivas due to the direct efforts of the Zeron. Officers would not have been able to locate Lara without the assistance of Zeron.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

[Signature] A. BAILEY # 34651 (CALIF ID 213924 0875)
(AS REQUESTED BY VALLEY TRAFFIC DIV)

**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: 19-17-11472
TYPE OF CRIME/INVESTIGATION: Vehicular manslaughter REWARD AMOUNT: \$ 50,000
REWARD EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/16/2019 REWARD EXPIRATION DATE: _____
INFO RECEIVED WHILE REWARD IN EFFECT: ☒ YES ☐ NO DATE RECEIVED: _____
(Check one)
CLAIMANT: _____ CLAIMANT'S OCCUPATION: _____
(Name or "Anonymous." If multiple anonymous claimants, indicate as "Claimant A, Claimant B," etc.).
CASE INVEST. BY: LAPD Valley Traffic Division OTHER CITY DEPARTMENT: _____
(Div/Section)
Investigator(s) Assigned: Detective Sinclair #39576 Telephone: (818) 644-8020
Detective Fuentes #35807 Telephone: (818) 644-8020
(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

[Signature]

RANK/TITLE

D-III A. BARNES
CHD (POL VTS)