



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2015

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: OFFER OF A SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$75,000) REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF JUAN ANTONIO BARTOLO AND DOMINGO ESTEBAN – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION – MAKING A FINDING THAT THIS MATTER IS AN EMERGENCY EXCEPTION TO THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

ISSUE:

The issue for City Council consideration is to approve an offer of a reward seeking witnesses to come forward with information related to the murders of Juan Antonio Bartolo and Domingo Esteban in the City of Riverside and determine that this action is an emergency exception to the Sunshine Ordinance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Determination that this action is an urgent matter that may severely impair public health and safety, pursuant to Section 4.05.050 (D)(1) of the Sunshine Ordinance;
2. Adopt a resolution offering a reward in the amount of \$75,000 for information that leads to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the deaths of Juan Antonio Bartolo and Domingo Esteban, Police Department Case P15-161784, for a duration of 60 days; and
3. Authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$75,000 from the Unreserved General Fund Balance to the Police Department's Riverside Reward Program, account number 3100000-459026.

BACKGROUND:

On Friday, October 23, 2015, at 9:36 p.m., Riverside Police Department Dispatch received several calls regarding a shooting that occurred at the corner of 7th Street and Kansas Avenue. When patrol officers arrived, they found three victims on the ground suffering from gunshot wounds. One victim, Juan Antonio Bartolo, was deceased at the scene and the other two were

transported to Riverside Community Hospital for treatment. The second victim, Domingo Esteban, did not survive his injuries. The third victim is in stable condition.

Detectives from the Riverside Police Department's Robbery Homicide Unit, Gang Unit and personnel from the Forensic Evidence Unit responded to the crime scene to assume the investigation. Based on preliminary investigation, the three victims were walking in the area of 7th Street and Kansas Avenue when a vehicle pulled up and parked. One or more suspects exited the vehicle and shot all three victims. The investigation is ongoing and detectives are currently following up on leads.

A press release was sent out the day after the homicide. A press conference was also held on November 5, 2015, to share with the community surveillance video depicting a suspect. To date, these efforts have not resulted in a positive identification of a suspect. No eyewitnesses to the shooting came forward the night of the shooting, nor have any been identified to date.

In May of 2001, the "Riverside Reward Program" was approved by the City Council. Guidelines for offering rewards are listed in Riverside Police Department Policy & Procedures Manual, Policy No. 364.

Detectives believe that offering a significant reward in the amount of \$75,000 may entice one or more witnesses to come forward with information that would help detectives in the identification of and apprehension of the person or persons involved in this double homicide.

It is necessary to make the determination that this action is an urgent matter that may severely impair public health and safety, pursuant to section 4.05.050 (D)(1) of the Sunshine Ordinance, as expediting the offer of reward will enhance the likelihood of obtaining information leading to the identification of and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for these crimes.

This reward offer will expire 60 days after the date of Council's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Reward amount of \$75,000 to be appropriated from the General Fund Contingency Reserve into Police Department expenditure account number 3100000-459026. If the offer of reward is terminated by expiration, revocation, or withdrawal, funds will be returned to the General Fund Contingency Reserve.

Prepared by: Sergio G. Diaz, Chief of Police

Certified as to

availability of funds: Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer

Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Resolution