



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JULY 26, 2016**

FROM: RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: OFFER OF A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$10,000) REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF JANICE LORRAINE BURNEY– SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

ISSUE:

Approval of an offer for a \$10,000 reward seeking witnesses to come forward with information related to the death of Janice Lorraine Burney in the City of Riverside.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution offering a reward in the amount of \$10,000 for information that leads to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the death of Janice Lorraine Burney, Police Department Case P16032611, for a duration of 60 days; and
2. Authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Unreserved General Fund Balance to the Police Department's Riverside Reward Program Account No. 3100000-459026.

BACKGROUND:

On February 29, 2016, at approximately 6:09 a.m., Riverside Police Communications received a 9-1-1 call of a female unconscious and not breathing, lying in the parking lot of 1375 Blaine Street, Riverside. Riverside Police and EMS personnel responded to the scene and located Riverside resident Janice Lorraine Burney, age 52, deceased. She suffered major injuries to her body.

Detectives at the scene learned Ms. Burney was lying down in the parking lot covered with a blanket and was run over by a vehicle. After the collision, the driver failed to report the incident or render aid and fled the scene.

Surveillance video obtained from nearby businesses captured a silver or white sedan approaching the scene from the north with its headlamps on. The vehicle was slowly traversing across the parking lot towards the direction where Ms. Burney was found. The vehicle's headlamps could be seen rising and descending in the area where Ms. Burney was located. The vehicle stopped

and the headlights were shut off. The area was very dark and the actions of the driver could not be seen. The headlamps were later turned back on as the driver slowly drove away in an eastbound direction out of camera view.

On the day of the incident, February 29, the Riverside Police Department disseminated a press release. A second updated press release was disseminated in March asking for the public's assistance in identifying the vehicle and driver who struck Janice Lorraine Burney. Attempts have also been made through social media to identify the vehicle and driver involved. To date, no suspect or suspect vehicle has been identified.

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, "Riverside Reward Program," which establishes a procedure for offering monetary rewards for information that leads to the identification and apprehension of any person whose willful misconduct results in injury or death to any person, or who willfully damages or destroys any property. Additionally, it creates a partnership between the community, police, and city government by which citizens can feel secure providing information on unsolved crimes and/or outstanding suspects.

Detectives believe that offering a significant reward in the amount of \$10,000 may entice one or more witnesses to come forward with information that would assist in the identification and apprehension of the person or persons involved in this death.

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

The reward amount of \$10,000 would be appropriated from the General Fund Contingency Reserve into the Police Department's Riverside Reward Program Account #3100000-459026. If no reward is offered within 60 days of Council's approval, funds will be returned to the General Fund Contingency Reserve.

Prepared by:	Sergio G. Diaz, Chief of Police
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Scott G. Miller, Interim Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Resolution