



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

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

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF THE OFFER OF A \$10,000 REWARD AS APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON JULY 26, 2016, FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF JANICE LORRAINE BURNEY– CONTINUATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

ISSUE:

Approve a renewal of the offer of a reward in the amount of \$10,000 seeking witnesses to come forward with information related to the death of Janice Lorraine Burney in the City of Riverside, as approved by Council on July 26, 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution renewing the offer of 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 P16-032611, for an additional 90 days; and
2. Approve the continued use of the supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 from the General Fund Contingency Reserve Account that was allocated on July 26, 2016, and resides in 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, 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.

DISCUSSION:

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

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.

On July 26, 2016, City Council adopted a resolution that provided a reward 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. The reward offer expired 60 days after the date of Council's approval.

The attached resolution renews the \$10,000 offer of reward that will expire 90 days after the date of City Council's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of the renewal of the reward offer is \$10,000. The amount was previously appropriated from the General Fund Contingency Reserve Account and remains available in the Police Department expenditure Account No. 3100000-459026. If no reward is offered within 90 days of Council's approval, funds will be returned to the General Fund Contingency Reserve unless once more renewed or extended.

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