



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MARCH 9, 2021

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OFFERING A \$30,000 REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF KEITH WHITNEY ALLEN – INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER

ISSUES:

Adopt a Resolution offering a reward in the amount of \$30,000 seeking witness(es) to come forward with information leading to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Keith Whitney Allen, Police Department case 200021917, for a duration of 60 days and authorize an interdepartmental transfer in the same amount.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a Resolution offering a reward in the amount of \$30,000 seeking witness(es) to come forward with information leading to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Keith Whitney Allen, Police Department case 200021917, for a duration of 60 days; and
2. Authorize the transfer of \$30,000 from the General Fund Non-Departmental/City Manager's Fiscal Management Account to the Police Department's Riverside Reward Program.

BACKGROUND:

On Friday, August 21, 2020, at approximately 6:03 AM, Riverside Police Department officers were dispatched to a call of a "subject down" at the intersection of 4th Street and Commerce Avenue, in the City of Riverside. Officers arrived and located the victim lying face down suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Medical personnel attempted life saving measures, however the victim succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at 6:11 AM. The victim was later identified as Keith Allen.

The Robbery – Homicide Unit responded and assumed the investigation with the help of the Gang Intelligence Unit and the Forensics Unit. Detectives and officers canvassed the neighborhood for

surveillance footage and witnesses. No witnesses to the shooting were located. Surveillance footage was obtained and it showed a possible suspect vehicle driving around the neighborhood before the shooting. The footage was too dark to determine a make and/or model of the vehicle.

Investigators learned Mr. Allen is a resident of the City of Hemet, and a native of the State of Texas. He was employed at 220 Laboratories in the city of Riverside and rode the RTA bus to work. On the morning of the 21st, Mr. Allen finished his shift as a factory warehouse worker and left at about 4:15 AM. It is believed that Mr. Allen then proceeded towards a bus stop when he was gunned down for unknown reasons.

A press release was distributed regarding the incident, but no information has been obtained as of this writing. Detectives believe there may have been witnesses to the events leading up to the shooting or the shooting itself, however they have yet to come forward.

DISCUSSION:

In May of 2001, the “Riverside Reward Program,” was approved by the City Council. Guidelines for offering rewards are listed in section 364 of the Riverside Police Department Policy Manual.

Detectives believe that offering a significant reward in the amount of \$30,000 may entice one or more witnesses to come forward with information that could possibly lead to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Keith Allen.

Attached is a resolution offering a reward in the amount of \$30,000 for information leading to the determination of the identify of, and the apprehension of, the person or persons responsible for the murder of Keith Allen, which will expire 60 days after the date of City Council’s approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this request. Should the reward be redeemed, the total fiscal impact will be \$30,000.

Upon City Council approval, sufficient funds, in the amount of \$30,000 will be transferred from the Non-Departmental/City Manager’s Fiscal Management Account (7211200-450247) to the Police Department’s Riverside Reward Program, Account No. 3100000-459026. If no reward is offered within 60 days of City Council’s approval, funds will be returned to the Non-Departmental/City Manager’s Fiscal Management Account unless once more renewed or extended.

Prepared by: Larry V. Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Certified as to
Availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Resolution