



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

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

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT WARD: ALL

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OFFERING A \$20,000 REWARD FOR INFORMATION
LEADING TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF PERSON(S)
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF IZAAC COLUNGA
AND DOMONIC CASTILLO – INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER**

ISSUES:

Adopt a resolution offering a reward in the amount of \$20,000 for information that leads to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the attempted murder of Izaak Colunga and Dominic Castillo that occurred in the City of Riverside, Police Department case 190006841, for a duration of 60 days and authorize an interdepartmental transfer in the same amount, as approved by Council on April 9, 2019 and July 6, 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution offering a reward in the amount of \$20,000 for information that leads to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the attempted murder of Izaak Colunga and Domonic Castillo, Police Department case 190006841, for a duration of 60 days.

BACKGROUND:

On Friday, March 13, 2019, at approximately 12:11 AM, Riverside Police Department officers responded to the 6400 block of Nidever Avenue, regarding multiple calls of shots fired into a residence. Upon arrival, officers contacted several occupants inside the residence, including two victims who had been struck by gunfire. Domonic Castillo suffered a single gunshot wound to his forearm. He was treated at a local hospital and later released. Izaak Colunga was critically injured. He was treated at a local hospital upon which time it was discovered that he was paralyzed from the neck down.

The Robbery – Homicide Unit responded and assumed the investigation with the help of the Forensics Unit. Detectives interviewed several witnesses who provided their accounts of the event and a few who provided a suspect and vehicle description. Over the past year, detectives worked

the case but eventually exhausted all leads.

A press release was distributed regarding the incident, but no additional information has been obtained as of this writing. In April of 2020, a \$10,000 reward was approved by City Council and offered to the public for assistance; however, no further leads were developed.

In July of 2021, a \$20,000 reward was approved by City Council and offered to the public for assistance. To date, the offer of the \$20,000 reward positively stimulated the investigation, but unfortunately the allotted 60 day period expired before all leads could be fully investigated.

Detectives believe there may be witnesses to the events leading up to the shooting or the shooting itself who have yet to come forward. Detectives further believe, a renewal of the \$20,000 reward will continue to positively stimulate the investigation and yield the useful information that could possibly lead to the identification and ultimately the apprehension of person or persons responsible for the attempted murder of Domonic Castillo and Izaac Colunga.

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 \$20,000 may entice one or more witnesses to come forward with information that would help them in the identification and apprehension of the person or persons involved in this attempted murder.

The original resolution, approved on April of 2020, provided the reward would expire 60 days after the date of Council’s approval. Council also approved a renewal resolution on July 6, 2021, which also provided that the reward offer would expire 60 days after the date of Council’s approval.

A new resolution has been prepared renewing the award period for an additional 60 days. The amount of the reward would remain at \$20,000. This offer will expire 60 days after the date of Council’s approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 2 *Community Well-Being* and Goal number No. 2.4 - Support programs and innovations that enhance community safety, encourage neighborhood engagement, and build public trust.

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The Riverside Police Department provides public safety services to the community. Issuing a reward that could positively stimulate the investigation and yield useful information that could possibly lead to the identification and ultimately the apprehension of person or persons responsible for the attempted murder of Domonic Castillo and Izaac Colunga support this goal.
2. **Equity** – The Department provides public safety services to all residents in the City of Riverside. Issuing a reward in an effort to apprehend a person or persons responsible for attempted murder helps in the achievement of this goal by ensuring that RPD employees

can enhance community safety.

3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Police Department has determined that the benefits of offering a reward in an effort to apprehend a person or persons responsible for attempted murder outweigh the cost of the reward. Additionally, the reward is only paid in the event of an apprehension.
4. **Innovation** – In order to meet the community's changing needs, the Police Department regularly assesses the various tools and programs at their disposal to help them provide public safety services to the community. The rewards program provides the Department with an additional tool to help keep the community safe.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Regularly assessing the Police Departments programs, making changes as needed and utilizing the programs as appropriate allows the Department to adapt and grow as the needs of the community change. The rewards program is a valuable tool that will help the Department provide public safety services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact of this action is \$20,000. Funds are available and upon approval funds in the amount of \$20,000 will be transferred from the General Fund, Non-Departmental/City Manager's Fiscal Management Account No. 7211200-450247 to the General Fund, Police Department's Riverside Reward Program, Account No. 3100000-459026. If no reward is offered within 60 days of Council's approval, funds will be returned to the Non-Departmental/City Manager's Fiscal Management Account unless 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:	Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachment: Resolution