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MEMORANDUM

CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board

From: Chairman Donald P. Wagner, Third District
Supervisor Katrina Foley, Fifth District

Date: June 10, 2024

RE: Add Item to June 25, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda

Please place the attached item on the June 25, 2024 Board of Supervisors agenda: Authorize Payment of Rewards for Information Leading to Apprehension in the Death of Aiden Leos.



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2024

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Chairman Donald P. Wagner and Supervisor Katrina Foley

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Tara Campbell (714) 834-3330
Nick Anas (714) 834-3550

2024 JUN 25 10 11 AM
CLERK OF THE BOARD

SUBJECT: Authorize Payment of Rewards for Information Leading to Apprehension in the Death of Aiden Leos

CEO CONCUR

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Budgeted: Yes

Current Year Cost: \$100,000

Annual Cost: N/A

Staffing Impact: No

of Positions:

Sole Source: N/A

Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A

Funding Source: See Financial Impact Section

County Audit in last 3 years No

Levine Act Review Completed: N/A

Prior Board Action: 10/19/21 #S26F, 05/25/21 #S84H and #S84I

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

1. Find that Laura Keith, Jesica Rodriguez and Raul Martinez provided specific information to law enforcement that directly led to the apprehension of Marcus Eriz and Wynne Lee in the death of Aiden Leos and therefore are lawfully entitled to collect the reward.
2. Determine the reward shall be paid proportionally as follows: 70% to Laura Keith, 20% to Jesica Rodriguez, and 10% to Raul Martinez.
3. Authorize and direct the Auditor-Controller to make payments from Miscellaneous, Budget Control 004 (100-017-004-5500-2400-ZX017), to allocate the payment of rewards in the percentage amount determined by the Board to Laura Keith, Jesica Rodriguez, and Raul Martinez for the \$100,000 in reward funds allocated by Chairman Wagner (\$50,000) and Supervisor Foley (\$50,000), upon receipt of approved payment request forms from the County Executive Office. Should the County of Orange receive future donations towards the reward, authorize and direct the Auditor-Controller to make additional reward payments based on the Board-approved percentage allocation.

SUMMARY:

Distribution of the reward donations for assistance in the identification and apprehension of those responsible for the death of Aiden Leos will serve to recognize those individuals who supported law enforcement's efforts on behalf of the community.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On May 21, 2021, six-year-old Aiden Leos was shot and killed on the 55 Freeway in Orange while riding as a passenger in his mother's car on his way to school. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) served as the lead investigating agency in the death of Aiden Leos and launched a manhunt for those responsible.

On May 25, 2021, Supervisor Wagner asked the Board to approve the expenditure of \$50,000 from his office's events budget to support a reward. At the same meeting, Supervisor Foley asked the Board to approve the expenditure of \$50,000 from her office's events budget. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the total of \$100,000 for the reward.

On June 6, 2021, the CHP arrested two suspects in connection with Aiden's death. The District Attorney charged Marcus Eriz with murder, among other related charges, and Wynne Lee, with being an accessory after the fact. On April 12, 2024, Eriz was sentenced to 40 years to life in state prison for the murder of Aiden Leos. Lee entered into a guilty plea on April 26, 2024, and received a maximum sentence of four years' confinement for her role in the murder.

Based on information provided by the CHP identifying each individual's role leading to the arrest of Eriz and Lee, the CHP recommends that the reward dollars be divided in the following manner:

Raul Martinez (10%) was a witness to the shooting and provided a photograph of the suspect vehicle. The photograph assisted in expediting the identification of the vehicle through camera footage.

Jesica Rodriguez (20%) sent an email on her father's behalf on June 4, 2021, which mentioned that Eriz worked at Gerber Collision and had an Asian girlfriend, which matched the description of the suspects. She claimed they drove a white Volkswagen. This made Eriz's name stand out immediately once the tip was received from Laura Keith.

Laura Keith (70%) and her husband both worked with the suspects at Gerber Collision. She provided the names of Eriz and Lee, where they lived, their schedules placing them along the route, information that the vehicle was registered to Lee's grandmother, and information on the Ford Ranger they were then driving. Eriz and Lee were arrested within 24 hours of receiving this tip.

On October 19, 2021, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County Executive Officer, or his designee, to accept donations in Budget Control 100-017-004-9140 for the payment of rewards in the apprehension of those responsible for the death of Aiden Leos. As of June 10, 2024, there have not been any donations made to that account. Board is requesting that the Auditor-Controller make payment to the three individuals in the percentages approved by the Board for any future donations made to this account.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

In FY 2020-21, a total of \$100,000 was identified to be used to fund the reward with \$50,000 allocated from Chairman Wagner and \$50,000 from Supervisor Foley. Sufficient appropriations exist in FY 2024-25 Miscellaneous Budget for Budget Control 004, for the related reward payments.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):