

# Agenda Report

**To:** City Council

**Date:** November 6, 2000

**Through:** Public Safety Committee

**From:** City Manager

**Re:** Protocol for the Issuance of Rewards

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to offer rewards in police department investigative cases under the listed circumstances following the outlined protocol.

## **BACKGROUND**

During the course of criminal investigations police personnel utilize a myriad of techniques to successfully apprehend and prosecute perpetrators of crimes. One such tool is the use of monetary rewards. Although not a common practice, the utilization of rewards, in certain situations, has proven invaluable in solving crimes that may have otherwise remained unsolved.

During the 1990's, the police department utilized a Reward Committee comprised of departmental personnel and volunteers from the community. The committee evaluated the need for rewards to be utilized in on-going criminal investigations. The use of this committee was very infrequent and was quickly terminated.

Since 1993, there were only three cases where rewards were utilized. In each of these cases, the reward money that was offered encouraged witnesses to provide pertinent information for the successful prosecution and eventual conviction of the suspects. The total amount of reward money that has been paid for all three of these cases is approximately \$25,000.

Today, there is no formal system in place to review and approve the use of a reward. An established reward protocol that may be quickly activated and utilized will be beneficial in securing leads on suspects before they are able to leave the area and avoid arrest.

**CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE USE OF REWARDS**

The City should consider the use of rewards under the following circumstances:

- Cases in which the police department believe that witnesses may exist, but are reluctant to come forward, and a monetary incentive may cause such witnesses to surface.
- Cases in which other means of establishing investigative leads have been exhausted or the leads are scarce.
- Cases involving abducted children, unless the incident involves a custody dispute.

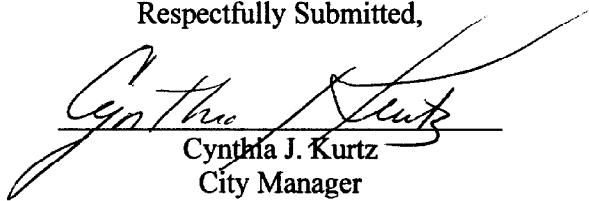
**PROPOSED PROTOCOL**

- The Chief of Police shall submit a memorandum to the City Manager requesting the issuance of a reward for a specific case. This memorandum shall outline the need for the reward and a suggested amount.
- If approved, the City Manager will notify the City Council, the press, and other appropriate bodies that a reward will be issued.
- If the police department receives information from a private citizen that leads to the arrest and conviction of a perpetrator, the Chief of Police shall submit a memorandum to the City Manager requesting a reward payment.
- If payment of a reward is confirmed, the City Manger will notify the City Council.
- The reward amount for any one case is not to exceed \$25,000.
- The funding for rewards will be taken from police department account 202 407300 (Public Safety Augmentation Fund).
- Members of the police department, and their family members, will not be entitled to such rewards.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

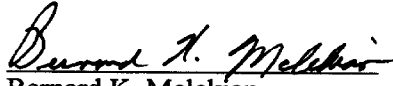
The fiscal impact for approving this recommendation may only be determined on a case by cases basis. Currently, the Police Department’s Public Safety Augmentation operating budget possesses sufficient funds for reward expenditures.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

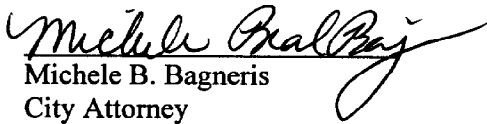
Approved by:



Bernard K. Melekian  
Chief of Police

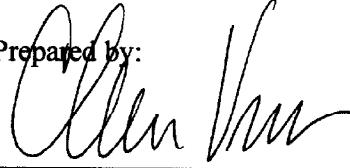


Jay Goldstone  
Director of Finance



Michele B. Bagneris  
City Attorney

Prepared by:



Chris Vicino, Commander  
Special Operations Division