



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Randy Leaf, Interim Chief of Police
Steve Tobias, Detective Sergeant

DATE: January 3, 2006

SUBJECT: Consideration of Raising a Previously Established Reward from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for Information Leading to the Arrest and Conviction of Those Responsible for the Murder of Libia Cabrera in Manhattan Beach on April 11, 2005

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council raise the previously established \$25,000 cash reward to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Libia Cabrera. This reward will be funded from available General Fund reserves.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

This reward will be funded from available General Fund reserves if an arrest and conviction occur for the murder of Libia Cabrera.

BACKGROUND:

On the afternoon of April 11, 2005, an unknown suspect or suspects entered a residence in the 100 block of 28th Street, and brutally murdered Libia Cabrera as she cleaned the residence at that location. Mrs. Cabrera was a 39 year-old mother of two who made a living cleaning homes for residents of our City. Mrs. Cabrera was well-liked, and admired by many residents of the City.

DISCUSSION:

At the City Council meeting on May 17, 2005, Council approved a request to establish a \$25,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Libia Cabrera.

The Manhattan Beach Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department believe that raising the reward to \$50,000, may renew media interest in this investigation and prompt someone with information about the crime to call police.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the assistance of the Manhattan Beach Police Department has been investigating this murder for over eight months. During this time,

investigators have conducted numerous interviews, processed and analyzed a large amount of evidence, and pursued several leads.

Print, television and radio media sources carried the story for two days following the murder. During this time, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and Manhattan Beach Police Department received several tips and information from the public regarding the crime. In addition to the media coverage, the Sheriff's Department released a security video depicting a "person of interest" approximately two weeks after the crime was committed. The Sheriff's Department asked for the public's help in identifying the person depicted in the tape, however, the release of the video resulted in only a few calls and leads, and the subject was never identified.

The Manhattan Beach Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department feel that increasing the reward could aid in convincing someone with pertinent information to come forward with a lead that will break the case. In addition, increasing the reward in this case will generate media interest and bring renewed attention to the investigation.