



Agenda Item # _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Ernest M. Klevesahl, Chief of Police
Steve Tobias, Detective Sergeant

DATE: May 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Consideration of Establishing a Reward in the Amount of \$25,000 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 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. 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:

The Manhattan Beach Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department believe that offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Libia Cabrera may renew media interest in this investigation and prompt someone with information about the crime to call police. The City of Manhattan Beach has offered rewards in the past for information leading to the arrest of murder suspects, most recently in 2001. The 2001 reward offer generated several tips.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the assistance of the Manhattan Beach Police Department has been investigating this murder for over a month. During this time, investigators have conducted numerous interviews, processed and analyzed a large amount of evidence, and pursued several leads. Several Investigators within the Los Angeles County

Sheriff's Department and Manhattan Beach Police Department have worked this case exclusively since April 11, 2005.

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 information we have received from the public continues to be investigated, however, new information has stopped coming in. We have reached a point in the investigation where all known leads have been investigated. No one to date has come forward with actual suspect information, and no tips have come in for the past two weeks.

The Manhattan Beach Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department feel that offering a reward could aid in convincing someone with pertinent information to come forward with a lead that will break the case. In addition, offering a reward in this case will generate media interest and bring renewed attention to the investigation. It is the hope of the Manhattan Beach Police Department to offer a reward contemporaneous to the release of an updated Sheriff's composite sketch of the person depicted in the security video.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternatives to the staff recommendation include:

1. Authorize a reward for an amount less than \$25,000.
2. Do not authorize a reward.