

On several nights in June 2024, an unknown individual chiseled and removed 11 of the unique Walk of Hearts® plaques from sidewalks in the Canoga Park/Warner Center neighborhoods of Council District 3. The theft of these plaques has created significant sidewalk damage as well as the loss of these landmarks that are both financially valuable and meaningful to the surrounding community. It is especially egregious that these plaques will likely be brought to metal recyclers and sold as scrap, in blatant disregard of their significance to the community. These plaques celebrate the dedication of teachers and The Walk of Hearts® has added new teachers plaques each year since 2004. Approximately 75 plaques have been installed in City of Los Angeles sidewalks to honor these teachers.

The person or persons responsible for these crimes represent an ongoing threat to the rights of persons and property of the City of Los Angeles; therefore, it is appropriate for the City of Los Angeles to offer a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the theft of Walk of Hearts® plaques from and significant damage to sidewalks in the Canoga Park/Warner Center neighborhoods of Council District 3.

I THEREFORE MOVE that by adoption of this Motion, the City Council provide an offer of reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the series of Walk of Hearts® plaque thefts from and damage to sidewalks in Council District 3, occurring over several nights in June 2024, and in support thereof, make the following findings pursuant to Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code:

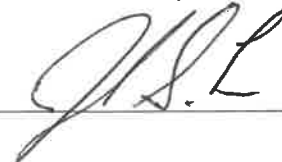
1. That the thefts were caused by the willful misconduct of one or more persons.
2. That this offer of reward is consistent with and taken for the immediate protection of the public peace, health and safety of local residents, as well as visitors to the City, and is consistent with the need to arrest and convict the person or persons who, because of not being apprehended, could by their actions further threaten the rights of persons and property in the City.
3. That the series of thefts and significant sidewalk damage is especially hazardous and, as a matter of public policy, the City hereby offers a reward as an added inducement for persons to come forward with information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the persons responsible for the thefts and damage.
4. That the sum of \$25,000 shall be the aggregate maximum sum of any payment or payments of a City reward in this instance.
5. That the offer of reward shall be in effect for six months from the date of the advertisement of the reward by the City Clerk.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be directed to cause notices and/or advertisements to be duly published according to the requirements of Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, and to thereby cause the offer of reward to become effective.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

PK
JUN 25 2024,