

MOTION

On Thursday, July 6, 2023, during early morning hours, three wooden crosses on the front lawn of the Sylmar Christian Fellowship Church, located at 13901 Polk Street, were doused with an accelerant and lit on fire. This criminal act of intimidation and hatred was deeply painful for the church members and the local and religious communities.

The Police Department has worked closely with its House of Worship Task Force partners, including the Fire Department's Arson Counter Terrorism Section, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to solve this case. However, currently there is no information to identify the individual(s) responsible.

The person(s) responsible for this crime represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people 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(s) responsible for this crime.

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(s) responsible for setting three wooden crosses on fire at the front lawn of Sylmar Christian Fellowship Church on July 6, 2023, 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 crosses burned 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 who, because of not being apprehended, could by their actions further terrorize and present a continuing and immediate menace to the rights of persons in the City.
3. That what happened to the victim is an especially disturbing crime and therefore, 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 person or persons responsible for this crime.
4. That the sum of \$50,000 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:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

SEP 01 2023

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