

MOTION

Over the past several weeks, fires have been reported at or near several homeless encampments in Venice -- at an encampment on Venice Boulevard and Grand Avenue on Sept 2, at an encampment near the Penmar Golf Course on September 14, at a tent at Sunset & Hampton on September 15, at a tent Ocean Front Walk near Ozone Avenue on September 17, and of a recreational vehicle near the Rose-Penmar encampment on September 18.

While fires in homeless encampments are often started accidentally when heating or cooking fires spread, there have been reports that some of the recent fires in Venice have been started deliberately. As a result of a Los Angeles Fire Department arson investigation, the Los Angeles Police Department made an arrest in connection with the September 17 fire on Ocean Front Walk. Reports indicate that the September 14 Rose-Penmar fire, and the September 15 Sunset & Hampton fire were set deliberately. There was also an attempt by someone to light a tent on fire near the Rose-Penmar encampment on September 21. Additionally, residents of an encampment on Third Avenue report that some of their tents were doused by gasoline in the early morning hours of September 10. Arson investigators are seeking the public's help in solving these cases, and a reward may motivate witnesses to come forward with more information.

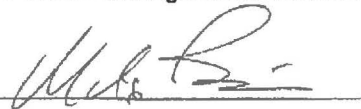
The persons or person responsible for the intentional fires have committed acts of arson, and represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people of Los Angeles; therefore, it is appropriate for the City of Los Angeles to offer a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the fires deliberately set at and near homeless encampments in Venice on September 14, September 15, and for the attempted fire on September 21.

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 any of the acts of arson in Venice starting in September 2020, and in support thereof, make the following findings pursuant to Division 19, Chapter 12, Article 1 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code:

1. That these fires 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 terrorize and present a continuing and immediate menace to the rights of persons in the City.
3. That what happened to the victims 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 series of arson attacks in Venice homeless encampments.
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 :



MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District

SEP 23 2020

SECONDED BY :

GILBERT A. CEDILLO (verbal)  
Councilmember, 1st District