



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 6th, 2007

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: Claim for Reward - Pursuant to Costa Mesa Municipal Code, Chapter VII 1/2 Graffiti, Section 11-147, Detection Code

DATE: October 18th, 2007

FROM: Police Department, Field Operations Division

PRESENTATION BY: Sergeant Paul Beckman

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sergeant Paul Beckman 714/754-5053

RECOMMENDATION:

Council is requested to authorize a reward payment in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to a citizen of Costa Mesa, California, in accordance with the provisions of Costa Mesa Municipal Code Section 11-147.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Section 11-147 (1) of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code, the City offers a reward up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person for violation of Section 594 of the California Penal Code, or Section 11-142 of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code for the use of graffiti. The Chief of Police determines the amount of any reward that is recommended to the Costa Mesa City Council. Pursuant to Section 11-147(3), the person convicted of committing the graffiti offense shall be liable for any rewards paid pursuant to this section and if that person is not an emancipated minor, the custodial parent of the minor shall be liable for any rewards paid pursuant to this section.

ANALYSIS:

On September 16th, 2007, a citizen observed a male vandalizing a tree in a city park. He vandalized the tree by carving his name and the name of his girlfriend into it with a knife. The citizen called the police when he observed the vandalism and then informed police dispatchers of the suspect's location and description.

Without the citizen's phone call, this vandalism would not have been solved, or possibly even reported.

The suspect was issued a citation for CMMC 12-20(a)(9) – defacing city park trees. On October 9th, 2007, he paid a fine of \$182.50, which would be equivalent to pleading guilty of the charge.

According to the Costa Mesa Municipal Code Sec. 11-141 - Graffiti means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, or design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, or painted on any real or personal property.

A copy of Police Department Case Number 07-15165 is provided as attachment (2).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

None

FISCAL REVIEW:

The \$250 reward will be funded from the Police Department's budget.

LEGAL REVIEW:

None

CONCLUSION:

The citizen's claim was fully researched and reviewed by the Police Department. The investigation revealed that the information provided by the citizen satisfied the requirements set forth in the Municipal Code to qualify for a reward in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

Christopher Shawkey
Chief of Police

MARC R. PUCKETT
Director of Finance

Paul Beckman
Sergeant/Gang Detail

Attachments: 2

[Claim for Graffiti Reward](#)
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