



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
INVESTIGATION DIVISION: MAJOR CRIME
SECTION- HOMICIDE UNIT

REPORT DATE: February 3, 2012
BOARD MEETING: March 21, 2012
BOARD REPORT # 1221
Regular

Date: February 3, 2012
To: Chair and Members of the Vancouver Police Board
From: Warren Lemke, Deputy Chief Constable
Commanding Investigation Division
Subject: Reward for Information on an Arson/Homicide GO #08-176347

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Police Board grant a reward of \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Willene Chong. It is requested that the reward be valid for one year from the date of Police Board approval.

POLICY:

Pursuant to Section 1.6.33 of the Vancouver Police Department Regulations and Procedure Manual: Police Board Rewards/Reward for Information.

PURPOSE:

Vancouver Police Department Homicide file # 08-176347 is currently unsolved but still under investigation. Investigators hope that a reward posted by the Vancouver Police Board may prompt individuals to come forward with information to identify the suspect(s) and provide evidence to support a criminal charge.

BACKGROUND:

On September 11th, 2008 unknown suspect(s) set a series of fires around the area of Kerr Street and 54th Avenue. The final fire was set at the Chong's family residence located at 2781 East 55th Avenue. Tragically, the deceased, Willene Chong, born Dec 12th, 1931, was unable to get out of her home in time and succumbed to her injuries. This incident has caused a considerable amount of concern and fear in the neighbourhood as it was a random act. Moreover, it was a despicable act carried out against one of our community's most vulnerable.

DISCUSSION:

The investigative team are aggressively investigating this murder of an innocent person. One strategy the team wants to pursue is the option of getting a financial reward out to the public with the aim being to stimulate conversation and viable investigative leads. An initial reward for information regarding the homicide of Willene Chong was granted and expired in December, 2009, without a claimant. A second reward for information regarding the homicide of Willene Chong was granted and expired in September, 2011 again without a claimant [It should be noted that due to other operational commitments' investigators were not able to fully capitalise on and promote the last reward offering as originally envisaged]. It is expected that the approval of a third reward, in conjunction with a fresh and widespread dissemination of information pertaining to the reward, particularly in the residential neighbourhoods in the area of the homicide, will reinvigorate public interest and assist the investigative team with developing new investigative leads.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Potential disbursement of \$10,000 based upon the claimant's eligibility and apportionment, to be determined by the Police Board which shall be the sole arbiter of the reward.

CONCLUSION:

Approval of the recommended reward may assist the investigation by bringing forward new information that could lead to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for Mrs Chong's death.

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Telephone: 604-717-9795 Date: 12-02-03

Submitting Executive Member (signature):

Warren Lemcke, Deputy Chief Constable
Commanding Investigation Division

Date: _____

This report has been prepared in consultation with the sections/divisions listed below, and they concur with its contents.

Concurring:

Date:

Date:

Date: