

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - San Francisco Homicide Reward Fund]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to revise eligibility criteria for the San Francisco Homicide Reward Fund, including to allow the Chief of Police, in the Chief's discretion, to approve payment of a reward when information leads to the filing of criminal charges whether or not the charges result in conviction; to prohibit denial of a reward on the basis of an information provider's request to remain anonymous; to prohibit denial of a reward on the basis of an information provider's arrest or criminal history; to require that a person seeking a reward provide information voluntarily and not as part of a plea bargain; and to ensure that a reward is not paid to a person for the provision of false information.

Existing Law

In 2016, the Board of Supervisors established the Homicide Reward Fund to provide financial incentives for the provision of information leading to arrests and convictions in homicide cases. The Homicide Reward Fund, including eligibility criteria for the receipt of a reward, is codified in Article XIII, Section 10.100-306 of the Administrative Code.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance revises certain criteria for the receipt of a reward, including to allow a reward when information leads to the filing of criminal charges whether or not the charges result in a conviction; to prohibit denial of a reward on the basis of an information provider's request to remain anonymous; and to prohibit denial of a reward on the basis of an information provider's arrest or criminal history. The proposed amendments would also require that a person seeking a reward provide information voluntarily and not as part of a plea bargain, and seeks to ensure that a reward is not paid to a person for the provision of false information.

Background Information

On May 8, 2024, the Police Commission held a public hearing to discuss the Homicide Reward Fund. Testimony presented during that hearing revealed that limitations in the current policy and eligibility criteria may undermine the efficacy of the program. At its December 4, 2024 meeting, the Police Commission approved a Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to amend the code governing San Francisco's Homicide Reward Fund consistent with this proposed ordinance, including to eliminate the requirement of a conviction, allow anonymous information providers, allow the payment of a reward regardless of whether the information

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provider previously engaged in criminal misconduct, and to ensure that rewards should not be paid to a person who provides false information.

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