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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember José Huizar Seeks to Ease City Reward Restrictions When Police Officers Are Assaulted

Councilmember introduces City Legislation, which would extend reward motions to include incidents involving officers who are assaulted while off-duty outside of City limits

LOS ANGELES (Feb. 03, 2009) - Councilmember José Huizar sought to close a loophole in the City charter Tuesday, which currently does not allow reward motions to be brought forth on behalf of police officers who are assaulted or killed during their off-hours outside of City limits.

The legislation was introduced after Huizar unsuccessfully sought a reward motion this week in the case of Hollenbeck LAPD Officer Anthony Razo - who was shot Saturday outside his City Terrace home after being attacked by two young men who remain at large.

"The very nature of the dangerous work the brave men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department do on a daily basis would suggest that they could be targeted wherever they happen to be, even if they're off-duty," Huizar said. "We owe it to them to exhaust all our resources to bring them some justice."

The motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Greig Smith, asks the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance that would allow the City to offer rewards for information that helps capture and convict individuals who assault or kill off-duty LAPD officers, wherever those attacks occur.

"We appreciate Councilmember Huizar's motion," said Paul M. Weber, President of the Los Angeles Police Protective League. "Unfortunately, crime and tragedy frequently cross city boundaries and we need to be in a position to contribute rewards across these arbitrary borders."

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Reward motions for officers attacked during their off-hours within City limits are similar to those brought forth on behalf of private citizens.

Early Saturday morning, 14-year LAPD veteran Razo was shot outside his City Terrace home after being attacked by two young men. The assault occurred about 4:45 a.m. in the 800 block of N. Gage Avenue, as Razo prepared to go golfing. One of the young men had a pistol, and during the struggle, Razo's own revolver fell to the ground and one of the men shot him, according to published reports. Razo is expected to recover.

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