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**ROSENDAHL PROPOSES \$50,000 REWARD
IN SLAYING OF VENICE HIGH STUDENT**

Westside Councilman Also Calls for More Funds for Anti-Gang Programs

LOS ANGELES – Moving swiftly in the wake of this week's fatal shooting at Venice High School, Councilman Bill Rosendahl today called for a \$50,000 reward and for expanded gang diversion programs in his district.

Rosendahl, who represents the Westside, submitted two council motions. The first seeks approval for a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers of 17 year-old Agustin Contreras. Described as a promising young man who was never involved with gangs, Contreras was slain while defending his younger brother from a reported gang robbery and assault Monday afternoon.

The second motion calls on a host of city agencies to identify additional funding for anti-gang programs in the neighborhoods around Venice High School.

"We need to do right by Agustin Contreras. We must find the perpetrators of this heinous crime and bring them to justice," Rosendahl said. "At the same time, we need to stop the cycle of senseless violence that took his life. To do that, we must offer more opportunities to at-risk youth to lure them away from gangs."

Rosendahl's motions come two days after the shooting and a day after he held a tense "Town Hall" meeting at the Oakwood Recreation Center. The Tuesday meeting, which drew 100 people, mourned the death of Contreras, but also drew attention to community frustration with local police and with a dearth of jobs and opportunities for at-risk youth.

In addition to calling for additional funds for gang diversion programs, Rosendahl's second motion also:

- Directed city officials to prepare an exhaustive list of job training and

youth employment programs and promote them to youth in Venice, Del Rey, and neighboring communities.

- Directed the Community Development Department to find ways to provide training in fundraising and grant-writing for community groups steering young people away from gangs.
- Directed the Human Relations Commission to work with LAUSD and local organizations to help quiet tensions and prevent retaliatory attacks.
- Directed city agencies to work with LAUSD and community groups to create a "Safe Passages" program for Venice High, Mark Twain Middle School, and other local campuses.

Rosendahl said it was important to focus city resources on at-risk youth, particularly in Oakwood and in the Culver-Slauson area of Del Rey.

"Too often, people forget or ignore those young people who live in the shadows of the affluence on the Westside. Our communities have so much. We need to share our resources and offer hope and positive opportunity to all our young people."

Since the shooting, Rosendahl has spoken frequently with LAPD officials for in-depth briefings on the criminal investigation. He has offered the LAPD any support necessary to help find the killers.

Rosendahl's motions are expected to be voted on by the full City Council next week.

The text of the reward motion is available [here](#). The text of the motion directing city agencies to coordinate and respond is [here](#).

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