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Newsom May Offer Reward In Dyer Case



SAN FRANCISCO - Family and friends of Ashlyn Dyer have been pleading with the government to offer a reward, hoping to generate leads in the case. Mayor Gavin Newsom plans to offer a reward even though the hit and run occurred on federal property -- not in city limits.

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Mayor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco: "I jog in that same area with the same iPod all the time, so it's particularly horrific."

And that's why Mayor Gavin Newsom has taken a personal interest in finding the driver of the car which struck and killed Ashlyn Dyer.

The 27-year-old woman was hit as she jogged in the Presidio early March 2nd. She died Sunday after doctors removed her from life support.

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So far, no one who witnessed the accident has come forward.

A reward may help says Detective Sgt. Robert Jansing of the U.S. Park Police.

Det. Sgt. Robert Jansing, U.S. Park Police: "Anytime anything like this happens, the sooner the better because it's going to be fresher in that person's mind. Their recollection will be better."

Park police are asking the U.S. attorney and the Presidio Trust, the administrators of the park, to offer a reward. However, federal rewards take time because of government red tape.

As for rewards offered by the mayor, they're usually for crimes committed in the city -- not on federal property, as was the case here. But the mayor met with Police Chief Heather Fong this morning and he's decided to overlook that technicality.

Mayor Newsom: "We usually don't do rewards immediately unless they're necessary, but it's at a point where it may be necessary. I'd be more than happy to step up and put up that money on behalf of the citizens of San Francisco."

Brian Wilhite, Ashlyn Dyer's former fiancé, told ABC7 he and her parents are grateful.

Brian Wilhite, victim's former fiancé: "It's fabulous news for us to hear that the mayor and other people involved in the city have interest enough to make that contribution."

As for the contribution that Ashlyn Dyer made when her organs were harvested, today the family of the recipient left a card at the site where she was struck. It read in part, "Your gift has given us the life of our child. (signed) Sister, Mother, Grandmother. A family eternally grateful."

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