

PRESS RELEASE

August 17, 2005

The Sonoma County Alliance announced today the creation of the “Take Back Our Community” reward program. The Sonoma County Alliance, in cooperation with the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chiefs Association, has created a reward fund to assist local law enforcement and the District Attorney’s Office to bring violent criminals to justice. The Sonoma County Alliance is a coalition of business, agriculture, labor, individuals, and member organizations throughout Sonoma County that is organized to protect private property rights, to encourage a healthy economy, to maintain a sound environment, and to promote a responsive political process. The Sonoma County Alliance members and member organizations represent over 24,000 Sonoma County employees.

This fund will be used in an effort to encourage reluctant witnesses to come forward on felony violent crime cases where law enforcement has exhausted all viable leads. The reward would be paid to those whose information leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Sheriff Bill Cogbill said, “I greatly appreciate the creation of this fund in the hope that it will have an impact on our ability to solve certain violent felonies that may have otherwise been unlikely.”

The Sonoma County Alliance has received a request from the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chiefs Association to fund the Davis Street case and have allocated a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the shootings.

Santa Rosa Police Chief Ed Flint added “as our investigators are running out of solid leads to follow up on, we are hopeful that this reward program will assist us in bringing those responsible to justice.”

On Sunday, June 19, 2005 at about 2:00 a.m., Santa Rosa Police Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of South Davis Street regarding multiple reports of gunfire. Upon arrival, officers determined that occupants of a residence on South Davis Street had been the victims of a shooting. Investigators learned that the occupants of the residence were returning home with some friends after celebrating their high school graduation when they were ambushed and shot by two suspects. Five students and one adult were struck by gunfire and were transported to local hospitals. The weapons used in this attack were a 12 gauge shotgun and an assault rifle.

Police investigators have been actively working the Davis Street shooting and have determined the shooting to be gang related. Several potential suspects have been interviewed regarding the incident, but at this time no arrests have been made. The motive for the shooting has not yet been determined nor has information been developed to identify the gunmen. The Santa Rosa Police Department is asking that anyone with information regarding the suspects in this case or potential motive to please come forward by contacting their hotline at 543-3590.

The Sonoma County Alliance expressed that there are many in our County that feel we are at a point where the ‘overall community’ can step forward to support our law enforcement’s efforts in eliminating the unacceptable impact that is taking place in our county and be able to bring those responsible for local crimes to justice. This fund is just one way to help out.

While the membership of the Sonoma County Alliance have committed to funding this program, donations from businesses, groups and individuals can be made by mailing your donation payable to the Sonoma County Alliance TBOC, to PO Box 1842, Santa Rosa, 95402. For further information, contact the SCA at 525-8377, or email us at execdir@sonomacountyalliance.com.