



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 1, 2015
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Dominick Rivetti, Chief of Police
Subject: Proclamation Honoring Detective Specialist Michelle Fieler
Attachments: U.S. Department of Justice, FBI Commendation

INTRODUCTION

Detective Specialist Michelle Fieler is a 32 year veteran of the Beverly Hills Police Department and is currently assigned to the Detective Bureau.

DISCUSSION

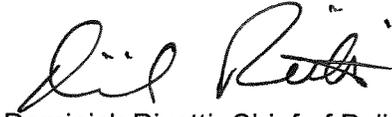
Throughout 2014, Detective Specialist Michelle Fieler conducted numerous pawnbroker and second hand dealer inspections to ensure compliance with state and local laws and to assist detectives in their investigations involving these businesses. On December 18, 2014, during a compliance inspection of pawn documents from 251 S. Beverly Drive – “Beverly Wilshire Jewelry & Loan/The Dina Collection,” she reviewed a pawn slip involving four oil paintings that were purchased on December 11, 2014 for \$100,000 which piqued her interest. Instead of just filing the documents, Fieler went beyond the call of duty and began researching the paintings. Her subsequent follow up inquiry led her to query the paintings against the FBI’s National Stolen Art Database which yielded a “positive hit” on four paintings by artist, N.C. Wyeth, known as one of America’s greatest illustrators. These were four of six paintings stolen in a 2012 residential burglary in Portland, Maine. Estimated values of these paintings reached into the millions of dollars.

A follow up investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) revealed that special agents had one suspect in custody and were searching for these stolen paintings. Fieler’s proactive and diligent investigation assisted our federal law enforcement partners in the recovery of these highly valuable works of art and assisted in the prosecution of a career criminal, Lawrence Estrella, 65, of Manchester, New Hampshire, and Oscar Roberts, 37, of Los Angeles, California, who will be serving 8 years and 2 years federal prison sentences respectively. This is a great example of the high caliber of police work which only serves to reinforce the community’s confidence in the Beverly Hills Police Department.

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Detective Specialist Michelle Fieler be presented with a Proclamation to acknowledge her exceptional efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rivetti", is written over a horizontal line.

Dominick Rivetti, Chief of Police

Approved By