

## GOVERNMENT

### Memorial to Fallen Detective Coming...Eventually

A freeway sign dedicated to police Lt. Curtis Massey, who was killed by a drunk driver, is in limbo as the city waits for an invoice from Caltrans.

By **Anne Louise Bannon** December 16, 2010

A memorial to fallen Culver City detective Lt. Curtis Massey remains in limbo while city officials wait for Caltrans to send them an invoice for the sign, which will be posted on the 10 freeway near where Massey was killed in January 2009.

"Things at Caltrans don't move too quickly," said Shelly Wolfberg, assistant to Culver City Manager John Nachbar. Wolfberg is the city staff member who has been working with the police department and others to get the freeway sign for Massey.

According to Assistant Chief of Police Scott Bixby, the campaign to get the sign for Massey began during the summer after Massey's death.

"The freeway just seemed like an appropriate way to mark that spot," Bixby said.

Massey was driving to work early in the morning of Jan. 28, 2009, on the eastbound 10 freeway when his car was struck by a drunk driver going against traffic. The other driver also died in the accident.

Bixby said that the police department began working with Wolfberg and eventually got the legislation, sponsored by then-Assemblywoman Karen Bass, passed late last summer. Bass presented the legislation to the City Council at the Nov. 22, 2010, council meeting.

"By making his name a part of our landscape, we hope to honor Lt. Massey, an indelible part of our city," Bass said in her remarks before the council.

"This is an incredible honor in Curt's memory, to me and to Curt's family," said Melody Massey, the lieutenant's widow. "I have no idea what it took to make this happen, but thank you, thank you."

Massey supervised the police department's juvenile section; in fact, Bixby said he was the kind of officer who went above and beyond the call of duty, citing an example when Massey drove all over the city with a young witness to capture child predators. Bass noted in her presentation that Massey spent many hours working as a volunteer to keep kids out of trouble.

"He was just a great guy," Bixby said.

Wolfberg said there doesn't seem to be a timeline in place for when the city will receive the invoice, nor does she know what dollar amount it will show. Attempts on the part of Patch to find out from Caltrans directly did not elicit a response.

"When I hear something, I will let you know," Wolfberg wrote in an e-mail to Patch.



Interested in a follow-up to this article?



SEE NEXT IN GOVERNMENT

**More Education Cuts Necessary, Brown Tells UCLA Audience**

## COMMENTS (1)

**Robert Gagnier**

12:34am on Tuesday, December 28, 2010

Officer Massey's death left a huge hole in the heart of many Culver City residents and workers and even those beyond the city's borders. It was an honor to talk with many of the community leaders at the time who had nothing but good things to say about the officer. I did a piece on his passing while being on staff with the Culver City Observer

Here is the link...

<http://elrincon.ccsd.org/ourpages/auto/2008/5/7/1210177271449/CulverCityObserverissue.pdf>