

NEWS

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\$50,000 reward offered for information on kidnapping

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors will pay \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the kidnapping of 3-year-old Briant Rodriguez, in addition to \$25,000 being offered by the FBI, Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary C. Ovitt announced today.

"Briant is an innocent victim, and we urge his kidnappers to immediately deliver him to a safe location and release him," Chairman Ovitt said. "It is our hope that the county's reward offer, along with that being offered by the FBI, will encourage anyone who has valuable information to come forward and help us solve this case, apprehend the suspects, and bring about Briant's safe return."

Anyone with information on the case is urged to contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department at **1-866-346-7632**.

Briant was kidnapped on Sunday, May 3, at about 2:30 p.m. from his home in the 8000 block of Pedley Road in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino, according to law enforcement authorities.

The county has been eager to offer a reward since news of the kidnapping first came to light. However, until today, law enforcement authorities were concerned a reward offer might hamper the search for Briant. Today, law enforcement officials determined a reward might actually aid in the investigation, and asked the Board of Supervisors to offer a reward.

"Public safety is the county's top priority, and the Board of Supervisors is pleased to cooperate with law enforcement in any way possible," Chairman Ovitt said. "That is especially true in this case, where the safety of a child is at stake."