

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 9, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Sharon Tso for* Council File No: 15-0002-S181
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 16-06-0483

SUBJECT: Resolution (Englander - O'Farrell - Buscaino) to support administrative action to
deny parole to Raylene Brooks

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Englander – O'Farrell – Buscaino) to include in the City's 2015 - 2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for administrative action by the full Board of Parole Hearings and/or Governor Brown to reverse the decision to grant parole to Raylene Brooks.

SUMMARY

On May 27, 2016, a Resolution (Englander – O'Farrell – Buscaino) was introduced in support of administrative action by the Board of Parole Hearings and/or the Governor to reverse the decision to grant parole to Raylene Brooks. The Resolution states that on September 3, 1988, Raylene Brooks was driving a vehicle that had just been involved in a drive-by shooting when the vehicle was spotted by two undercover Police Department (LAPD) Officers, Daniel Pratt and Veronica Delao Jenkins. The Resolution states that the officers followed the car, and then parked at a gas station to await backup when Raylene Brooks made an abrupt U-turn towards the officers, enabling the passenger to open fire on Officers Pratt and Jenkins. The Resolution states that Officer Pratt was fatally wounded, and that Raylene Brooks and the shooter fled the scene.

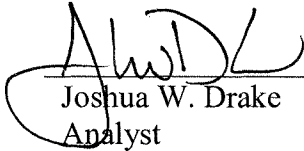
The Resolution states that Raylene Brooks was recently found suitable for parole by a panel of the Board of Parole Hearings. The Resolution further states that she willfully participated in the murder of an LAPD officer, and should never be allowed to walk free again. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support administrative action by the full Board of Parole Hearings and/or Governor Brown to reverse the decision to grant parole to Raylene Brooks.

BACKGROUND

On September 3, 1988, Officers Daniel Pratt and Veronica Delao Jenkins were on an undercover stakeout in South Los Angeles when they heard gunfire near their location. Shortly after hearing this gunfire, the officers observed a vehicle driving by them, which was just involved in a drive-by shooting. The Officers radioed in their observations and then began following the car. A short chase began, which ended at a nearby gas station where the officers parked their car for cover and to await backup. While Officer Pratt radioed in, Raylene Brooks, the driver of the car the officers were observing, made an abrupt U-Turn and began driving towards the officers. As she drove, her boyfriend, who was seated in the passenger seat of the car, opened fire on Officers Pratt and Jenkins with an AR-15 assault rifle. Officer Pratt returned fire, but was fatally struck by the

gunfire. Raylene Brooks and her boyfriend then fled the scene, and only turned themselves in after being profiled on “America’s Most Wanted.”

In 1991, Raylene Brooks was convicted of first degree murder of a law enforcement officer, and sentenced to 25-years-to-life in state prison. She was found eligible for parole by a panel of the Board of Parole Hearings on May 18, 2016. Under California law, the full Board of Parole Hearings has 120 days from the panel’s decision to reconsider the decision, and then Governor Brown will have 30 days to consider Raylene Brooks’ suitability for parole. Under California law, the Governor can uphold her parole, reverse it, or take no action and return it back to the full Board for further review.



Joshua W. Drake
Analyst

SMT:jwd

Attachments: Resolution (Englander – O’Farrell – Buscaino)

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on the night of September 3, 1988, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officer Daniel Pratt and his partner, Officer Veronica Delao Jenkins, were on an undercover stakeout in South Los Angeles when they heard gunfire; seconds later, a car involved in a drive-by-shooting nearby drove past them; and

WHEREAS, as the Officers radioed in their observations and requested permission to follow the car, a short chase ensued, which ended at a nearby gas station where the Officers parked their car for cover; and

WHEREAS, while Officer Pratt called for backup, Raylene Brooks, the driver of the car that the Officers were following, made an abrupt U-turn towards the Officers, driving the wrong way on a one-way street to enable her gang-member boyfriend to fire at the Officers with an AR-15 assault rifle; and

WHEREAS, Officer Pratt was killed in the gunfire, and Raylene Brooks and her boyfriend fled the scene of the shooting; and

WHEREAS, after being profiled on "America's Most Wanted," Raylene Brooks turned herself in, and was eventually convicted of first degree murder of a law enforcement officer and sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2016, a panel of the Board of Parole Hearings recommended that Brooks be granted parole, subject to review by the full Board and then the governor; and

WHEREAS, Raylene Brooks willfully participated in the murder of a LAPD Officer, and she should not be allowed to walk free ever again;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015 - 2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for administrative action by the full Board of Parole Hearings and/or Governor Brown to reverse the decision to grant parole to Raylene Brooks.


PRESENTED BY: 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

PRESENTED BY: 
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District



jwd

MAY 27 2016

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL