

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: August 20, 2015

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Sharon Tso* Council File No: 15-0002-S91
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 15-08-0646

SUBJECT: Resolution (Englander – Buscaino - Blumenfield) to support administrative action
to deny parole to Voltaire Williams

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Englander – Buscaino - Blumenfield) 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 Voltaire Williams.

SUMMARY

On August 11, 2015, a Resolution (Englander – Buscaino - Blumenfield) 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 Voltaire Williams. The Resolution states that in 1985, Voltaire Williams participated in a scheme to murder Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Detective Thomas C. Williams, who was killed in front of his son on October 31, 1985. The Resolution further states that Voltaire Williams was recently recommended for parole by a panel of the Board of Parole Hearings, subject to the review of the full Board of Parole Hearings and Governor Brown.

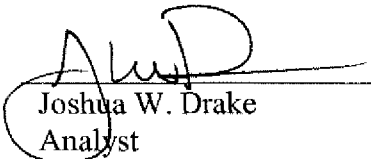
The Resolution states that the nature of Voltaire William’s crime is especially heinous, and he should never be allowed to walk free again. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support administrative action by the full Board of Parole Hearings and/or Governor Brown to reverse the decision to grant parole to Voltaire Williams.

BACKGROUND

In 1989, Voltaire Williams was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder for his part in the murder of Detective Thomas C. Williams, who was gunned down outside of the church school his six-year-old son attended on October 31, 1985. While Voltaire Williams did not pull the trigger, he was aware of the plot and had earlier attempted to hire an individual to kill Detective Williams on behalf of Daniel Jenkins, whom Detective Williams had arrested for armed robbery. Voltaire Williams was sentenced to 25 years-to-life, and has served 26 years in state prison for his part in this crime. On August 4, 2015, a panel of the Board of Parole Hearings recommended that Voltaire Williams be granted parole, even though he was not up for a parole hearing as he had been denied parole in 2014 and his case was not scheduled to be heard again for three years.

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 Voltaire Williams’ suitability for parole. Under California law, the Governor can uphold his parole, reverse

it, or take no action and return it back to the full Board for further review. Detective Williams' friends and family, as well as law enforcement personnel and organizations from across the state are opposed to Voltaire Williams' release, as he played a crucial role in an especially terrible crime, and are seeking administrative action to ensure that Voltaire Williams is not released.



Joshua W. Drake
Analyst

SMT:jwd

Attachments: Resolution (Englander - Buscaino - Blumenfield)

RESOLUTION

CITIES, 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, protecting the safety of the public and the members of law enforcement who are responsible for ensuring public safety is of the utmost importance to the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, on October 31, 1985, Detective Thomas C. Williams was killed in a hail of gunfire, fired from an assault weapon, as he picked up his six-year-old son Ryan from his church school in Canoga Park; and

WHEREAS, Detective Williams's last action was to tell his son to duck, saving his life at the cost of his own; and

WHEREAS, Voltaire Williams was convicted of soliciting another individual to kill Detective Williams, in order to prevent Detective Williams from testifying in a pending robbery and attempted murder trial; and

WHEREAS, the murder of Detective Williams was carefully planned over several days and committed in retaliation against an officer who was performing his assigned duties; and

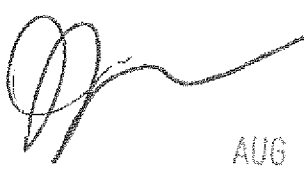
WHEREAS, on July 31, 2015, a panel of the Board of Parole Hearings recommended that Williams be granted parole, subject to review by the full Board and then the governor; and

WHEREAS, the nature of Voltaire Williams's crime is especially heinous, and he 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 Voltaire Williams.

PRESENTED BY: 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

PRESENTED BY: 
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District


AUG 11 2015

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL