



Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs

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May 17, 2018

Governor Jerry Brown
Attention: Legal Affairs,
State Capitol,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Commutation Request by Inmate Andre Willis, Inmate #T20308

Dear Governor Brown:

As President of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, the organization representing the more than 7,900 sworn members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, I am writing on behalf of those deputies and many others in the law enforcement community to urge you **not** to commute the prison sentence of Andre Willis for his role in the execution murder of Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff Shayne York.

Shayne and his fiancée had stopped at a local hair salon in Buena Park, so he could get a haircut before they left on a vacation. Inmate Willis and his crime partner entered the salon and robbed the patrons at gunpoint, rifling through Shayne's personal effects. When the pair came upon his Sheriff's Department badge and discovered he was an off-duty law enforcement officer, Willis' crime partner shot Shayne in the head.

Shayne died two days later after being taken off life support, with his fiancée and his family at his side, and over 100 deputies at the hospital standing vigil during his final moments of life.

The cold-blooded execution/murder of Deputy Shayne York had no effect on Inmate Willis. Immediately after the robbery, he and his crime partner went to the City of Yorba Linda and robbed a local pizza parlor. Four years later, during his sentencing, inmate Willis showed his continued lack of remorse for his crimes, as reflected by this passage from a LA Times story describing his sentencing hearing:

"Orange County Superior Court Judge Frank F. Fasel said he was disturbed by the lack of remorse from the defendant, Andre Willis, who spent the hearing looking around the courtroom, seemingly uninterested in the proceedings. "Nothing about remorse," the judge said in the Santa Ana courtroom. "An 'I'm sorry folks' or something like that would have been human."

Shayne York was a dedicated deputy who came from a law enforcement family; his father was a retired deputy sheriff. Shayne was noted for his calm demeanor while a deputy, which inspired the nickname "Sgt. York" after the unflappable hero played by Gary Cooper in the film of that name. Although he had only served a few years on the department, he was looked upon as a leader. One of the deputies who stood by his side while life support was removed summed it up best at the time: Shayne was a "partner, friend. He's a hero, that's all he is."

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The circumstances of Willis' crimes—a robbery with a cold-blooded execution done solely for the fact that Shayne was a deputy sheriff, followed immediately by another robbery--- are horrible crimes. Inmate Willis has not paid a fraction of the debt he owes society. Please reject his commutation request and send the clear message that vicious behavior will not be rewarded, and those guilty of such behavior should expect to serve the full sentence imposed upon them after conviction.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Hernandez', written in a cursive style.

Ronald Hernandez,
President
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs

Cc: Sheriff Jim McDonnell
Deputy District Attorney Kory Degraffenreid