



Office of the Chicago City  
Clerk



R2012-428

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 4/18/2012

**Sponsor(s):** Burke, Edward M. (14)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Chicago City Council urges Illinois Prisoner Review Board and Governor Pat Quinn to reject executive clemency petition of Johnnie Veal

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## **RESOLUTION**

***WHEREAS,*** The Illinois Prisoner Review Board held a hearing on April 10, 2012, to allow for public testimony regarding a petition for executive clemency for Johnnie Veal who was sentenced to life in prison for the murders of two Chicago police officers in the summer of 1970; and

***WHEREAS,*** The Chicago City Council has been informed of this event by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

***WHEREAS,*** On July 17, 1970, Police Officer Anthony Rizzato and Sergeant James Severin were patrolling the Cabrini Green Housing Complex when they were shot and fatally wounded by assailants firing from the window of a high-rise; and

***WHEREAS,*** At the time of their assassinations, Police Officer Anthony Rizzato and Sergeant James Severin were protecting the citizens of Cabrini Green by participating in the Chicago Police Department's volunteer Walk & Talk program; and

***WHEREAS,*** Police Officer Anthony Rizzato and Sergeant James Severin were shot in cold blood to seal a pact between two rival gangs; and

***WHEREAS,*** An intensive investigation led to the arrest and conviction of George Knights and Johnnie Veal, who were sentenced to life in prison in early 1972; and

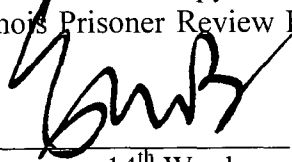
***WHEREAS,*** At the time of their deaths, Police Officer Anthony Rizzato and Sergeant James Severin were thirty-seven and thirty-eight years old, respectively; and

***WHEREAS,*** The time which has passed does not diminish the pain and grief felt by the loved ones of Police Officer Anthony Rizzato and Sergeant James Severin; and

***WHEREAS,*** The Illinois Prisoner Review Board will issue a confidential recommendation to Governor Pat Quinn who will then make the final decision on the petition; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council assembled this eighteenth day of April, 2012, call upon the Illinois Prisoner Review Board and Governor Pat Quinn to reject the executive clemency petition of Johnnie Veal; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Adam Monreal, Chairman of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GWB', is written over a horizontal line.

Alderman – 14<sup>th</sup> Ward