



Los Angeles County
**Professional
Peace Officers
Association**

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November 17, 2023

(Via Email: GGascon@da.lacounty.gov and U.S. Mail)

District Attorney George Gascón
Los Angeles County
District Attorney's Office
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: JESSE GONZALEZ

Dear District Attorney Gascón:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), which represents over 7,300 active and retired peace officers and safety members, please be advised of the very serious concerns PPOA has regarding the further handling of the standing murder conviction of defendant Jesse Gonzales arising out of the assassination of Deputy Jack Williams in 1979.

It is PPOA's understanding that the District Attorney's Office unilaterally sought to review the murder conviction and death penalty enhancement issued to Defendant Jesse Gonzalez that arose out of his murder of Deputy Sheriff Jack Williams in 1979. It is PPOA's understanding that the issue as to the reliability of the informant, who testified in the underlying murder trial, was challenged at trial and was reviewed by the California Supreme Court and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Gonzalez v. Wong*, 667 F.3d 965. None of those reviews resulted in any change to the status of Defendant Gonzalez's conviction or his jury-imposed sentence to death for having assassinated Deputy Williams.

Most recently, it is PPOA's understanding that your Office has reopened this matter to again have the information related to the informant William Acker reviewed to potentially overturn the conviction and the implementation of the death penalty. On behalf of PPOA's members, PPOA strongly urges the District Attorney's Office, if the court overturns the conviction, to proceed as follows:



Immediately appeal the ruling and if the matter is to be re-tried, to seek a First-Degree Murder conviction with the death penalty enhancement for intentional and the unforgivable murder of Deputy Williams.

While we understand that the District Attorney's Office has a number of potential pathways forward, should the court order a new trial, the options of a dismissal, parole, or offer of anything less than first-degree murder with the death penalty enhancement attached thereto is strongly objected to by the members of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association.

Thank you for your consideration of PPOA's position on the further handling of the Gonzalez matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Escobedo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy Escobedo
President

NE: mv