
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 876 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, MAY 10, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 10, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and expressing condolences upon the passing of
2 Willie L. Williams.

3 WHEREAS, Willie L. Williams was born in Philadelphia on
4 October 1, 1943, and was the oldest of seven children; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams graduated from Overbrook High School
6 and went on to receive his associate's degree from the
7 Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1964, Mr. Williams became a Fairmount Park guard
9 and after the park police merged with the city police, he rose
10 quickly in the ranks, becoming the first African American to
11 head the Philadelphia Police Department as Police Commissioner
12 in 1988; and

13 WHEREAS, During his tenure in Philadelphia, Mr. Williams
14 established small police stations in neighborhoods, doubled the
15 number of African-American officers with the rank of captain or
16 inspector and helped to fortify police-community relations; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served as president of the National
18 Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives in 1991 and

1 1992; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1992, Mr. Williams was recruited as the first
3 African-American chief of Los Angeles' 8,000-officer police
4 department; and

5 WHEREAS, When Mr. Williams took the position, the Los Angeles
6 Police Department (LAPD) and the community were experiencing
7 difficulties as a result of citywide riots; and

8 WHEREAS, During this tumultuous time, Mr. Williams increased
9 the size of the department and implemented some of the community
10 policing initiatives he had implemented in Philadelphia; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1997, Mr. Williams left the LAPD after clashing
12 with city officials and later became a Federal security director
13 at the nation's busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
14 International Airport; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams retired outside of Atlanta with his
16 wife, Evelina, of 49 years; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams passed away on April 27, 2016, and is
18 survived by his wife, his daughter Lisa, his sons Willie and
19 Eric, two brothers, two sisters, his mother and nieces, nephews
20 and grandchildren; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life
22 and express condolences upon the passing of Willie L. Williams.