

DATE

Board of Parole Hearings
Attn: Pre-Hearing Correspondence
P.O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

RE: Inmate Mario Catanio
CDC# C77711
Date of Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Dear Chairman and Parole Board Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you deny parole for Mario Catanio (CDC# C77711), currently serving 25 years to life for the murder of Los Angeles City firefighter Thomas G. Taylor. On January 28, 1981, Inmate Catanio set fire to a North Hollywood restaurant after being paid \$2,500 by its owners in an insurance arson scheme. Courageously responding to the scene, Thomas Taylor died after falling through the roof of the flaming structure intentionally torched by inmate Catanio.

Taylor, 34, an eight-year veteran of the department, left a wife and two sons, Erik, 12, and Jason, 10. Eight other firefighters were injured. Inmate Catanio (CDC# 77711) stood trial and was justly convicted of murder, arson, and fraud in the conspiracy to burn down the financially ailing restaurant.

It is inconceivable to think that Inmate Catanio, now serving 25 years-to-life in prison, could actually be released into society to again endanger the public or take the life of another. In recent years, similar murders caused by arson have been punished with the death penalty. As recently as 2009, Mr. Catanio was judged to still be a risk to public safety, a judgment echoed by Gov. Brown in denying parole in 2012.

When considering the gravity, special circumstances and aggravating facts of Inmate Catanio's crimes, a clear danger to public safety continues to exist in granting his parole. Inmate Catanio remains a serious threat to society, the Taylor family, and the City of Los Angeles. I respectfully urge Inmate Catanio be denied parole and that he remain incarcerated to serve out the remainder of his "life" sentence as prescribed by law.

Sincerely,