

## MOTION

Robert William Stewart was born into slavery in Kentucky on March 1, 1850. In 1886, he moved to the City of Los Angeles with his family, and on March 30, 1889, he was selected alongside Joseph Henry Green as the first African American to serve as a Police Officer in the Police Department (LAPD). Policeman Stewart was assigned to work patrol in what is now part of the LAPD's Central Area. As he was the first African American patrolman in LAPD, Policeman Stewart's actions as a police officer grew significant attention. He was often written about in local newspapers, which documented his exemplary work for the residents of Los Angeles.

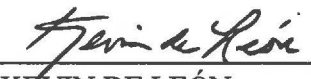
On May 10, 1900, Policeman Stewart was arrested by LAPD detectives for allegedly assaulting a 15-year-old girl that he met while on patrol. Policeman Stewart acknowledged meeting the girl in the course of his duties, but denied ever having physical contact with her. As a result of these accusations, Policeman Stewart was fired by the Board of Police Commissioners and forced to stand trial. Policeman Stewart was ultimately found not guilty of these accusations, but the damage was done. Policeman Stewart was never rehired by the LAPD and worked as a laborer and janitor until his death at the age of 81 on July 27, 1931.

The LAPD has recently embarked on an extensive reevaluation of its history and how that history is conveyed to LAPD personnel. As part of this process, the LAPD must collectively acknowledge troubling aspects of its history, including the racially motivated firing of Policeman Stewart.

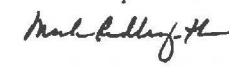
In an effort to address the maltreatment of Policeman Stewart, the LAPD wishes to rename the Central Area Roll Call Room in honor of him. Policeman Stewart will also be ceremonially reinstated and retired as an LAPD Officer. These actions will not right the injustice faced by Officer Stewart in life, but are important to ensure that the LAPD can accurately document its past and posthumously restore Policeman Stewart to his rightful place in LAPD's history.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department's Central Area Roll Call Room be renamed as the "Robert William Stewart Roll Call Room" in honor of the first African American to serve in the Police Department.


PRESENTED BY:

  
 KEVIN DE LEÓN  
 Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

  
 MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
 Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

  
 CURREN PRICE  
 Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

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