

LAS VEGAS

## Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

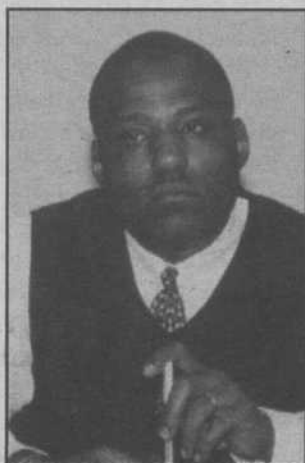
## Williams' fate in city's hands

By Albert C. Jones  
Sentinel-Voice

The ball is in the city manager's court and the final status of suspended or demoted city employees will be his ultimate decision.

Following a city auditor's special report reviewing a series of alleged policy and procedural issues surrounding Wendell P. Williams as an administrative officer and others in the city's Neighborhood Services Department, Las Vegas City Manager Douglas Selby has the authority to determine their fate.

"The city manager hasn't indicated what he is going to



**WENDELL P. WILLIAMS** do," said Elaine Sanchez, a spokesperson for the city. "He can take as much time as he needs before making his de-

cision."

"I haven't studied the report in enough detail to decide what actions are appropriate," said Selby.

At the request of Mayor Oscar B. Goodman, City Auditor Radford K. Snelling issued a 17-page report on Monday. Goodman, in turned, has called a special session of city council to discuss the auditor's findings.

The special session of city council will be held Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 2:30 p.m. Two items are tentatively on the agenda, said David Riggleman, the city's director of communications.

"There are two items to be discussed," Riggleman said. "There will be discussion and possible action of the auditor's report and discussion and possible action of city employees who are in the state legislature."

The fate of Williams as a city employee would have to be done in "executive session" and not as a part of a meeting open to the public. No such session has been scheduled as part of Tuesday's proceedings, Riggleman said on Wednesday.

"Everything will be an (See Williams, Page 3)

## Jackson sought on molestation counts

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - Michael Jackson was being sought Wednesday on an arrest warrant alleging multiple counts of child molestation and authorities were negotiating with the pop star's legal representatives to arrange a surrender.

Jackson, who survived a child-molestation investigation without being charged 10 years ago, was believed to be in Las Vegas.

The pop star was asked to surrender his passport and was being given an opportunity to surrender "within a specified period of time," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Jim Anderson said. Bail would be set at \$3 million.

"I believe he's willing to cooperate with us," Anderson said.

Charges "will be filed" against Jackson, District Attorney Thomas W. Sneddon Jr. said.

Sneddon advised Jackson: "Get over here and get checked in."

The new case is different from the 1993 investigation because California law has changed and an alleged victim can be forced to testify, Sneddon said. In the old case the alleged victim, who reportedly received a settlement from Jackson, refused to testify.

"We have a cooperative victim in this proceeding," Sneddon said.

He said there was only one victim in the case but he would not release any details, including the child's sex or any circumstances, including where the crimes allegedly occurred.

The warrant was for violation of Section 288(a) of the California Penal Code — which prohibits lewd or lascivious acts with a child under age 14. The California Penal Code says anyone convicted of the crime can be punished by three to eight years in prison.

The affidavit supporting the warrant will remain sealed for 45 days for completion of the investigation, the officials said.

As many as 70 law enforcement officials served a warrant at Jackson's Neverland Ranch on Tuesday and searched for evidence for more than 12 hours.

(See Jackson, Page 9)

## Muhammad convicted in D. C. sniper case

Special to Sentinel-Voice

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. - In a verdict that could cost him his life, a stone-faced John Allen Muhammad was convicted Monday of using a high-powered rifle, a beat-up car and a teenage sidekick to murder people at random and terrorize the Washington area during last year's sniper attacks.

The jury immediately began hearing evidence on whether the 42-year-old Army veteran should get the death penalty or life in prison. The penalty phase is expected to last several days.

"We reserve the death penalty for the worst of the

worst," prosecutor Richard Conway told the jurors. "Folks, he still sits right in

front of you without a shred of remorse."

Muhammad stood impassively as the verdict was read,

looking straight ahead with the same enigmatic look he had throughout the trial. Two jurors held hands, and two others wept. Family members of victims held hands and wiped away tears.

The jury deliberated for 6 1/2 hours over two days before convicting Muhammad of two counts of capital murder. One accused him of taking part in multiple murders, the other — the result of a post-Sept. 11 terrorism law — alleged the killings were designed to terrorize the population. Muhammad is the first person tried under the (See Verdict, Page 4)



**Sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad, center, stands as a verdict of guilty on all four counts is read at the Virginia Beach Circuit Court in Virginia Beach, Va., on Monday.**

## Analysis: Black male murder rate tied to economic reality

By Hazel Trice Edney

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The number could fill a city the size of Orlando, Fla.; Little Rock, Ark.; Springfield, Ill. or Pasadena, Calif. It's larger than the population of Durham, N.C.; Jackson, Miss.; Hartford, Conn.; Augusta, Ga. or Chattanooga, Tenn.

This number is 195,757. And that's how many African-American males have been victims of homicide since the Federal Bureau of Investigation began keeping detailed statistics by race in 1976. That figure does not include the 56,776 murdered

African-American females, which brings the total Black homicide count over the past 27 years to 252,533 — larger than the populations of Louisville, Ky.; Akron, Ohio; Rochester, N.Y. or Scottsdale, Arizona.

With a White homicide toll at 275,529 over that same time period, the Black rate is more than six times higher, about 20.5 to 3.3 per 100,000.

"Essentially, what you first see is a rather strong correlation between the city's homicide rate and the percentage of population that's Black," explains James Fox, a criminal justice expert at Northeastern University in

Boston. "However, when you introduce into the analysis those other factors, particularly the children in broken homes and poverty, that's really what's underlying those homicide rates."

Fox says the booming economy in the 1990s contributed to the reduction in homicides because it helped to provide money for programs to fight crime. But that's no longer the case.

"Right now, with the economy in a pretty rough shape, lots of cities are making major slashes, major cuts in their police forces, as well as in the very programs that were successful even at the

federal level. There's a move to cut back on the after-school programming," Fox says.

"Those were some of the best strategies that paid off in the 90s."

No one has to tell Carlesea Williams those strategies are no longer in place.

Herson, Nucommus Staya Williams, 20, was shot eight times almost four years ago as he stood in front of McKinley High School in northeast Washington, D.C. An associate, Jesse Harrison, 24, was convicted and sentenced to 37 years to life in prison for the murder.

"His beef wasn't even with my son. It was with another guy that my son was seen talking to," she says.

At a recent memorial for homicide victims and a special service for their families (See Murder, Page 6)

## Homicide victimization by race, 1976-2000

Rate per 100,000 population

