



## *Olivia Chow*

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The Honourable Vic Toews, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Safety  
Ottawa, ON  
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March 17, 2010

Dear Minister Toews,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Gary Freeman, his wife Natercia Coelho and their four children to respectfully request your consideration of issuing Mr. Freeman a Temporary Resident Permit based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Mr. Douglas Gary Freeman has been married to a Canadian for over 25 years and their four children are Canadian-born. He has lived the majority of his life in Canada and it is cruel that he is unable to return to his home.

Mr. Freeman was charged for an incident that occurred over 40 years ago, during a time of extreme racial tension in the United States. After three years and seven months of pre-extradition custody in Canada, Mr. Freeman voluntarily returned to Chicago in February 2008.

It is my understanding, that at the request of both the former police officer who was involved in the incident and the prosecution, Mr. Freeman's case did not go to trial. He accepted the prosecution's plea bargain agreement of a guilty plea to a single count of Aggravated Battery and sentenced to 30 days in the Cook County Jail, two years probation, and a major contribution to a Chicago police charity.

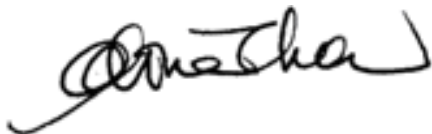
Mr. Freeman was released from custody in March 2008 and successfully completed all of the conditions of his probation without incident in February 2010. However, despite meeting all of his legal obligations, Mr. Freeman is now being confronted with the government's decision to refuse his entry into Canada and is prevented from reuniting with his wife and children in their home.

Mr. Gary Freeman resided in Canada for over thirty years. While in Canada he got married, raised four children and is known as a mentor in his community. Prior to his arrest he was gainfully employed with the Toronto Public Library.

Mr. Freeman presents no danger to anyone and there is no reason not to allow him back into Canada. Allegations against Mr. Freeman are unsubstantiated and court documents and further reports corroborate Mr. Freeman's assertion that he was not a member of the Black Panther Party.

I urge you to take all of the information into consideration in addition to the humanitarian and compassionate nature of Mr. Freeman's case and grant him a Temporary Resident Permit so that he can be reunited with his family in the country he calls home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olivia Chow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Olivia" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Chow".

Olivia Chow, MP  
Trinity-Spadina

cc. The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.