



State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

PARDON OF INNOCENCE
for
RONNIE WALLACE LONG

WHEREAS, during the October 1976 Term of Cabarrus County Superior Court, Ronnie Wallace Long ("Long") was convicted of First-Degree Rape and First-Degree Burglary, Docket Numbers 76-CR-5708 and 76-CR-5709; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 1976, by judgment of said Court, Long was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences in the custody of the then-North Carolina Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2005, the North Carolina Center for Actual Innocence filed a motion for location and preservation of evidence on Long's behalf and it was ultimately granted; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the aforementioned motion, counsel for Long obtained valuable, material newly discovered evidence; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2020, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, sitting *en banc*, issued a ruling in *Long v. Hooks*, 947 F.3d 159 (4th Cir. 2020) that Long's due process rights were violated by the suppression of material, exculpatory evidence in violation of *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and remanded his case to the district court; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2020, the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, having considered the Fourth Circuit's decision and the State's position on the Writ, granted the Writ, vacated Long's convictions, and ordered his release; and

WHEREAS, Long was released from custody on August 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Long now seeks a Pardon of Innocence from the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina is vested with the exclusive authority under the state constitution to issue pardons to individuals upon such conditions as he may think proper.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina, in consideration of the above factors, and by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State, do by these presents PARDON the said RONNIE WALLACE LONG, it being a Pardon of Innocence.

This Order effective this the 17th day of December 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper
Governor