



State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

PARDON OF INNOCENCE
for
LARRY JEROME WILLIAMS, JR.

WHEREAS, during the February 2002 Term of Buncombe County Superior Court, Larry Jerome Williams, Jr. ("Williams"), at age 16, pled guilty to Second-Degree Murder, Docket Number 00-CRS-065085; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2002, by judgment of said Court, Williams was sentenced to a minimum term of one hundred (100) months and a maximum term of one hundred twenty-nine (129) months in the custody of the then-North Carolina Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2014, counsel for Williams filed a Motion for Appropriate Relief ("MAR") in Buncombe County Superior Court, seeking a judicial determination of actual innocence; and

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2014, February 13, 2015, July 24, 2015, and September 30, 2015, the Honorable Judge Joseph N. Crosswhite heard the MAR proceedings; and

WHEREAS, based on the Court's findings of fact, Judge Crosswhite found Williams had demonstrated his actual innocence by clear and convincing evidence; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2015, Judge Crosswhite, based upon evidence tending to establish Williams's innocence of the crime for which he was convicted, concluded that his conviction should be vacated and dismissed all charges against Williams; and

WHEREAS, Williams 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 LARRY JEROME WILLIAMS, JR., it being a Pardon of Innocence.

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



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roy Cooper", written over a horizontal line.

Roy Cooper
Governor