



State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

PARDON OF INNOCENCE
for
MARK ELLIOT CROTTS

WHEREAS, during the October 1992 Term of Alamance County Superior Court, Mark Elliot Crotts ("Crotts") was convicted of two counts of First-Degree Murder, Docket Numbers 91CRS19956 and 91CRS19957; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 1992, by judgment of said Court, Crotts was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences and placed in the custody of the then-North Carolina Department of Correction; and

WHEREAS, counsel for Crotts appealed the convictions to the North Carolina Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, during the pendency of the appeal, on November 4, 1993, counsel for Crotts filed a Motion for Appropriate Relief ("MAR") in the North Carolina Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 1993, the North Carolina Supreme Court remanded the MAR to the Alamance County Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1994, Superior Court Judge Gregory A. Weeks concluded that Crotts' "right to due process, a fair trial and the effective assistance of counsel" were violated, and allowed the MAR in part and denied it in part; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Supreme Court reviewed the MAR order and on October 5, 1994, terminated Crofts' appeal and remanded the case to Alamance County Superior Court for a new trial; and

WHEREAS, Crofts was retried in Alamance County Superior Court in 1995 and the trial resulted in a hung jury; and

WHEREAS, venue was transferred to Granville County and Crofts was tried for a third time in Granville County Superior Court and in 1997 was acquitted of both charges; and

WHEREAS, Crofts 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 MARK ELLIOT CROTTS, it being a Pardon of Innocence.

This Order effective this the 13th day of November 2024.




Roy Cooper