



State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

PARDON OF INNOCENCE
for
DARRYL ANTHONY HOWARD

WHEREAS, during the March 1995 Term of Durham County Superior Court, Darryl Anthony Howard was convicted of Second-Degree Murder, (2) counts; and First-Degree Arson, Docket Numbers 92-CRS-28349, 92-CRS-28350 and 92-CRS-28352; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 1995, by judgment of said Court, Howard was sentenced to two consecutive 40-year terms for two murders and one 40-year term for the arson to run concurrently in the custody of the then-North Carolina Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, counsel for Howard filed a motion with the court for DNA testing of the victims' rape kits and it was ultimately granted; and

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

WHEREAS, in an order entered on December 1, 2016 Durham County Superior Court Judge Orlando F. Hudson, Jr. concluded as a matter of law that the existence of the newly discovered DNA evidence favorable to Howard showed that he is factually innocent and ordered that Howard's convictions be vacated, granted Howard's motion for a new trial, and released him from prison; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2016, the Durham County District Attorney's Office dismissed all charges against Howard and refused to retry the case on

grounds that there was insufficient evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt; and

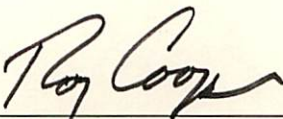
WHEREAS, Howard now seeks a Pardon of Innocence from the Governor; and

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 DARRYL ANTHONY HOWARD, it being a Pardon of Innocence.

This Order effective this the 30th day of April 2021.





Roy Cooper
Governor