

FILED

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
2014 JUN -9 AM 7:48 SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
COUNTY OF GRANVILLE 75 CRS 6128

GRANVILLE CO. C.S.C.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BY *Tranda R. Whitmore*

v.

Assistant

OPINION

WILLIE HENDERSON WOMBLE

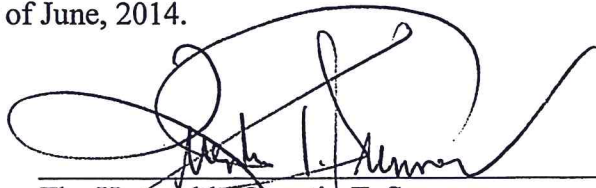
THIS MATTER came on for hearing before the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission (Commission) on June 2 and 3, 2014, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§ 15A-1460 – 1475. After careful review of the evidence presented, the Commission hereby makes and enters the following findings of fact:

1. On November 18, 1975, Roy Brent Bullock (Bullock) was shot during an armed robbery of the Food Mart in Butner, NC. On November 19, 1975, Bullock died from his injuries.
2. On July 7, 1976, Willie Henderson Womble (Womble) was convicted, after a jury trial, of First Degree Murder. Womble was sentenced to Life in prison.
3. On April 4, 2013 the Commission received a letter from Womble's co-defendant, Joseph Lee Perry (Perry) which stated that Womble was innocent of the crime for which he was convicted.
4. On April 17, 2013, Commission staff interviewed Womble and at that time he applied to the Commission for review of his claim. Womble asserted his complete factual innocence related to the murder of Bullock and the Commission began an inquiry pursuant to Article 92, Chapter 15A, of the General Statutes.
5. Throughout the Commission's inquiry, Womble has fully cooperated with Commission staff in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 15A-1467(g).

6. On June 2 and 3, 2014, the Commission held a full evidentiary hearing in this matter pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-1468.
7. During the hearing, the Commission considered testimonial and documentary evidence. The evidence included, among other things:
 - a. A 191 page brief provided to the Commission by the staff before the hearing;
 - b. Supplemental documentation provided during the hearing;
 - c. Live testimony by Commission Associate Director Sharon Stellato, Co-Defendant Joseph Perry, alibi witness Shirlyn Walters; and Claimant Willie Womble;
 - d. Affidavits from Attorneys William Land Parks and James E. Cross, Jr.
8. After carefully considering this evidence, the Commission has concluded, by a unanimous vote that there is sufficient evidence of factual innocence to merit judicial review.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-1469(a), and as Chairman of the Commission, the undersigned refers this case to the Honorable Robert H. Hobgood, Granville County Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, and respectfully requests that the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court appoint a three-judge panel and issue commissions to its members to convene a special session of the Superior Court in Granville County to hear evidence relevant to the Commission's recommendation.

This the 3rd day of June, 2014.



The Honorable Quentin T. Sumner

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Nash County
Chairman, North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

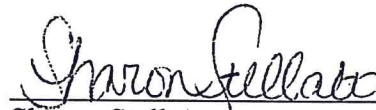
The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing *Order* was served upon the following persons by depositing a copy of the same, postage pre-paid, in an official depository of the United States Postal Service, addressed as follows:

The Honorable Samuel B. Currin, III
Granville County District Attorney
District Court Building
145 Williamsboro St.
Oxford, NC 27565

Ms. Natasha A. Adams
Assistant Public Defender
Orange County Public Defender's Office
129 East King Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278

This the 4th day of June, 2014.

NORTH CAROLINA INNOCENCE INQUIRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon Stellato", written over a horizontal line.

Sharon Stellato
Associate Director
North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission
Post Office Box 2448
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602
Telephone: (919) 890-1580
Facsimile: (919) 890-1937