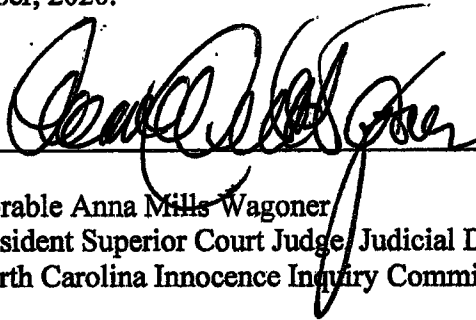


4. Throughout the Commission's inquiry, Williams has fully cooperated with Commission staff in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 15A-1467(g).
5. On September 28, 2020 through September 29, 2020, the Commission held a full evidentiary hearing in this matter pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-1468.
6. During the hearing, the Commission considered testimonial and documentary evidence. The evidence included, among other things:
 - a. A 739-page brief provided to the Commission by the Commission's Director prior to the hearing;
 - b. Supplemental documentation, in the form of video recorded depositions provided prior to the hearing, handouts, and a PowerPoint presentation;
 - c. Live testimony by Commission Staff Attorney Julie Bridenstine, Staff Attorney Brian Ziegler, computer and digital forensic expert Russell Gilmore, Antonio Freeman, Karon Moses, Jamal Thomas, and Coatney Williams; and
 - d. Affidavits from Jimmie "Sam" Barnes, Duncan McCormick, James Antinore, and Valerie Asbell;
7. The Commission also heard a Victim Impact Statement.
8. After carefully considering this evidence, the Commission has unanimously concluded that there is sufficient evidence of factual innocence to merit judicial review.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-1468(c), and as Chair of the Commission, the undersigned refers this case to the Honorable Cy A. Grant, Sr., Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District 6A, 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 Superior Court of Northampton County to hear evidence relevant to the Commission's recommendation.

This the 29th day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Mills Wagoner", written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable Anna Mills Wagoner
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Judicial District 19C
Chair, North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing *Opinion* 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 Cy A. Grant, Sr.
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Judicial District 6
PO Box 489
Windsor, NC 27983

The Honorable Valerie Asbell
District Attorney
6th Prosecutorial District
119 Justice Drive, Suite 11
Winton, NC 27986

Ms. Christan Routten and Ms. Jennifer Wells
Public Defenders, 1st District
2601 N. Croatan Hwy, Ste. 4
Kill Devils Hills, NC 27948

This the 30th day of September, 2020.

**NORTH CAROLINA INNOCENCE
INQUIRY COMMISSION**



Lindsey Guice Smith
Executive Director
North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission
Post Office Box 2448
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602
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