



# State of North Carolina

**Roy Cooper**  
GOVERNOR

## PARDON OF INNOCENCE for MONTROYAE DONTAE SHARPE

WHEREAS, during the July 1995 Term of Pitt County Superior Court, Montroyae Dontae Sharpe ("Sharpe") was convicted of First-Degree Murder, Docket Number 94 CRS 7660; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 1995, by judgment of said Court, Sharpe was sentenced to Life in Prison and placed in the custody of the then-North Carolina Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, counsel for Sharpe filed a Motion for Appropriate Relief with the Superior Court of Pitt County, North Carolina, after which an evidentiary hearing was granted; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the aforementioned motion, an evidentiary hearing was conducted on May 17, 2019, where testimony was given, and other evidence presented; and

WHEREAS, in an order entered on August 22, 2019, Superior Court Judge George Bryan Collins, Jr. found that, if there were a retrial, the State's first witness would testify that "she was not present at the time of the shooting and that her trial testimony was entirely made up based on what she saw on television and what investigators told her;" and

WHEREAS, the August 22, 2019 Order concluded as a matter of law that the medical examiner's testimony that the version of the shooting given by the State's first witness at trial was "medically and scientifically impossible" was newly discovered evidence, and that this new evidence was of such nature that a

different result would probably be reached at a new trial, and ordered that Sharpe's conviction be vacated, granted Sharpe's motion for a new trial, and released him from prison; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2019, the Pitt County District Attorney's Office dismissed the above-mentioned charge, and refused to retry the case on grounds that there was insufficient evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt; and

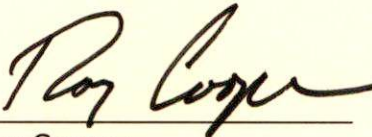
WHEREAS, Sharpe now seeks a Pardon of Innocence from the Governor; and

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 MONTROYAE DONTAE SHARPE, it being a Pardon of Innocence.

This Order effective this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.



  
Roy Cooper  
Governor