

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF WAKE

2009 SEP 8 PM 2:16

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

91 CRS 71728

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY C.F.C.

BY \_\_\_\_\_

OPINION OF THE

v.

NORTH CAROLINA INNOCENCE  
INQUIRY COMMISSION

GREGORY FLINT TAYLOR

**THIS MATTER** came on for hearing before the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission (Commission) on September 3 and 4, 2009, 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 April 19, 1993, Gregory Flint Taylor was convicted of first degree murder in Wake County Criminal Superior Court.
2. On July 23, 2007, the North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence referred Gregory Flint Taylor’s claim to the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission.
3. On September 7, 2007, Gregory Flint Taylor’s claim was accepted for formal inquiry, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-1467.
4. Throughout this inquiry, Gregory Flint Taylor has fully cooperated with Commission staff, in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 15A-1467(g).
5. On September 3 and 4, 2009, the Commission held a full evidentiary hearing in this matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-1468.
6. The Commission’s investigation has not uncovered any intentional wrongdoing by any law enforcement agency, the district attorney’s office, or defense counsel in this case.

7. During the hearing, the Commission considered testimonial and documentary evidence as well as summaries by the Commission staff. This evidence included: a 438 page brief provided to the Commission by the staff before the hearing, supplemental documentation provided during the hearing, live testimony by Eva Marie Kelly, Ernest Andrews, the Commission Investigator Sharon Stellato, expert testimony from SBI Special Agent Dwayne Deaver, SBI Special Agent Kristin Hughes, SBI Special Agent Russell Holley, Forensic Biologist Meghan Clement, Crime Scene Reconstruction Expert Larry McCann, Forensic Pathologist Dr. Deborah Radisch, and Confession Reliability Expert Steven Drizin, a videotaped statement of Gregory Taylor, and victim impact statements made by the family of Jacquetta Thomas.

**WHEREFORE**, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 15A-1468(c), the Commission unanimously concludes that there is sufficient evidence of factual innocence to merit judicial review in this case.

This the 4th day of September, 2009.

---

The Honorable Quentin T. Sumner  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Nash County  
Chairman, North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission