



PROCLAMATION A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

INNOCENCE INQUIRY COMMISSION WEEK

The North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission is important to the citizens of North Carolina and aids in the administration of justice. This year marks 15 years of operation for the Innocence Inquiry Commission. In recognition of these facts the week of October 24 is hereby declared “Innocence Inquiry Commission Week” for the North Carolina Judicial Branch.

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina recognized that “public confidence in the justice system is strengthened by thorough and timely inquiry into claims of factual innocence” (Session Law 2006-184);

WHEREAS, the Innocence Inquiry Commission was established in 2006 as an extraordinary procedure to investigate and determine credible claims of factual innocence in North Carolina codified in Article 92 of the North Carolina General Statutes;

WHEREAS, the Innocence Inquiry Commission is a neutral, fact-finding state agency;

WHEREAS, 2022 marks 15 years of operation for the Innocence Inquiry Commission;

WHEREAS, the Innocence Inquiry Commission has received over 3,300 claims of actual innocence and reviewed and closed over 3,200 of those cases;

WHEREAS, the Commission has held 18 hearings and 15 individuals have been exonerated by a post-Commission three-judge panel or had their convictions vacated through a Motion for Appropriate Relief and been granted a pardon of innocence by the governor based on the Commission’s investigation of their claim;

WHEREAS, the Commission has continued to fulfill its purpose of ensuring the “innocent as well as the guilty receive justice” (Session Law 2006-184).

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby order that the week of October 24-28, 2022, be declared as “Innocence Inquiry Commission Week” for the Judicial Branch of the State of North Carolina.

PAUL NEWBY, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA