



PATRICIA R. LYKOS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Nov. 22, 2010

Donna Hawkins
George Flynn
Public Information Office
(713) 755-3320

District Attorney's Dismissal Brings Final Closure for Wrongly Convicted Inmate

(Houston, Tx) – After developing evidence that proved his innocence, the Harris County District Attorney's Office on Monday formally dismissed the 1983 aggravated sexual assault charge against exonerated inmate Michael Anthony Green.

Green, 44, had written to ask for the help of prosecutors in his quest to show he was innocent of the conviction that led to a 75-year prison term. District Attorney Patricia Lykos took office in 2009 and established the Post Conviction Review Section to examine credible claims of innocence. The section launched an intensive investigation into Green's case, relying on modern DNA testing and interviews with witnesses to determine he had been wrongly convicted.

When he gained his freedom last July, Green's 27 years in prison made him the longest serving Texas inmate to be exonerated. In October, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals officially reversed the conviction and upheld the finding of innocence by state District Judge Susan Brown.

Under Texas criminal justice procedures, Green's case was returned to her 185th District Court for the final action Monday – dismissal of the original charge.

Lykos credited the exoneration action to the dedication of Post Review Section Chief Baldwin Chin and Assistant District Attorney Alicia O'Neill, and to District Attorney's Investigators J.J. Freeze and Donald Cohn.

The section's work was also cited recently by the Innocence Project of Texas when that group honored the DA's Office with the 2010 Honesty and Integrity in Prosecution award.

Green had been the only defendant convicted of the crime. The DA's section investigation identified all four suspects believed to have been involved in the offense, although they cannot be prosecuted because the statute of limitations has expired. (end)