

**Conviction Integrity Review Panel  
Office of the Chief State's Attorney  
300 Corporate Place  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

**In re: Daryl Valentine**

**CIU # 2021-0728**

Conviction Integrity Review Panel: Hon. Peter T. Zarella (Ret.)  
Attorney Barry Butler  
SA Michael Gailor  
SA Christian Watson

Conviction Integrity Unit: SASA Joseph Valdes  
DASA Thai Chhay

**Conviction Review Panel's Report to  
Chief State's Attorney and State's Attorney for Judicial District of New Haven**

In 1998, Mr. Daryl Valentine was convicted after a jury trial of two counts of murder in violation of General Statutes Sec. 53a-54a (a), one count of attempt to commit assault in the first degree in violation of General Statutes 53a-49 (a), and one count of carrying a pistol without a permit in violation of General Statutes Sec. 29-35 (a). His conviction was upheld on appeal by the Connecticut Supreme Court on December 19, 2000. See *State v. Valentine*, 255 Conn. 61. On July 28, 2021, Mr. Daryl Valentine requested that the Conviction Integrity Unit initiate an investigation into his conviction. On June 23, 2022, the Panel met at the Offices of the Chief State's Attorney to consider a presentation from Joseph C. Valdes, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney on behalf of the Unit.

As a result of that presentation, the Panel requested certain additional information be supplied. It requested that the Unit:

- 1) Interview retired Detective Robert Coffey, who was present for interviews of witnesses Regina Coleman and Kristina Higgins;
- 2) Determine the distance from the witnesses to the likely location of the getaway car as indicated by the location of the applicable 9 mm shell casings;
- 3) Provide and digitize the audio recordings of the statements of Regina Coleman and Kristina Higgins; and
- 4) Obtain the defense file and review it for any relevant or material information.

In addition to providing the Panel with the above, the Unit also provided the Panel with additional recordings and videos. This included audio police interviews of Tyrone Adams, Christopher Roach, Kristina Higgins, Byron McFadden and the 911 records. Video recordings of Kristina Higgins and Tara Brock that were taken by the defense and were in the state's file were also made available. At the request of the Unit, a second meeting was scheduled to further discuss the information supplied. The second meeting was held on August 29, 2022, at which a digital drive with the new information was provided to the Panel.

As a result of the August 29, 2022 meeting, the Panel requested that the Unit attempt to obtain the files of the attorney(s) representing Mr. Valentine during his habeas court proceedings. This information was provided along with a 67-page report dated September 16, 2022 to the Panel by the Unit. At that meeting it was disclosed that Mr. Valentine had petitioned and received relief from the Board of Pardons.

Upon due consideration of the information provided in the final report and after extensive discussions, the Panel met on Monday, November 21, 2022 and voted unanimously that no action was warranted on Mr. Valentine's request. The basis of the decision was that no new relevant evidence was presented to the Panel that the jury and the Courts had not previously considered and that the Panel had not lost confidence in the conviction. Absent any such new information, the Panel concluded that it was not within the purview of the Panel to question the determinations made by the jury as reviewed by the Courts.

The Panel wishes to take this opportunity to thank Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Valdes and the members of the Unit for their thorough and detailed investigation and presentation of this matter.

12/28/2022

/s/ Peter T. Zarella

Hon. Peter T. Zarella (Ret.)

12/29/2022

/s/ Barry Butler

Attorney Barry Butler

12/29/2022

/s/ Michael Gailor

SA Michael Gailor

12/29/2022

/s/ Christian Watson

SA Christian Watson