



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR**

August 27, 2025

Community Civil Activist Inc.
199 Mckinnon Ave. NE
Concord, NC 28025-3344

Dear Community Civil Activist Inc.,

I am writing to acknowledge August 27 as Ronnie Long Freedom Day. This day marks the fifth anniversary of Mr. Long's release after more than four decades of incarceration. In December 2020, Governor Cooper issued Mr. Long a Pardon of Innocence, following a court's decision to vacate Mr. Long's convictions earlier that year.

Ronnie Long Freedom Day serves as an opportunity to recognize Mr. Long, honor his resilience, and to recommit ourselves to advocating for a criminal justice system that treats all North Carolinians fairly and in which all people have confidence.

I am grateful to the Community Civil Activist (CCA) organization for your tireless work to highlight the issue of wrongful convictions. This work is critical to our shared pursuit of building a criminal justice system in which all are treated with dignity and fairness under the law. It is a tragedy for anyone to be incarcerated for a crime he or she did not commit.

This 27th of August, I ask all North Carolinians to join me in recognizing Ronnie Long Freedom Day. May we take this opportunity to commemorate Mr. Long's fortitude in fighting for his freedom and to promote awareness about wrongful convictions and the need for continuous improvement of the criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josh Stein".

Josh Stein
Governor