



INNOCENCE PROJECT OF FLORIDA, INC.

Unlock the Truth

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Innocence Project of Florida Mourns Tragic Police Shooting Death of Client Leonard Cure

(October 16, 2023 Tallahassee, Florida) – We are devastated by the news that our client, Leonard Cure, was tragically shot to death this morning by a Sheriff’s deputy during a traffic stop on Interstate 95 in South Georgia. He was on his way to his suburban residence from visiting his mother in South Florida.

Lenny, as we knew him, was wrongfully convicted in 2003 of the armed robbery of a Walgreens in Broward County, Florida. At the time of his arrest, Lenny had a job and close family members, including his mother and brother. Due to his wrongful conviction, Lenny was sentenced to prison for the rest of his natural life and remained separated from his family for 16 years before his eventual exoneration.

Lenny was exonerated in December 2020 based on a finding of “actual innocence.” His exoneration was unique in that it was the result of a collaborative reinvestigation between the Innocence Project of Florida and the Conviction Review Unit (CRU) of the Broward County State Attorney’s Office. During this collaborative reinvestigation, the CRU determined that documentary evidence, in the form of an ATM receipt, proved that Lenny was miles away from the crime scene at the time of the robbery. The reinvestigation also concluded that a photo array shown to one of the victims contained multiple photos of Lenny and was therefore an unreliable, suggestive identification procedure. Based on these findings, the State of Florida recognized that Lenny was actually innocent and moved for his release and exoneration.

Lenny was compensated by the State for his more than 16 years of wrongful incarceration. He received this compensation just months ago on August 9, 2023. Most meaningful was that the State of Florida apologized to him for wrongfully taking his liberty. After his exoneration, Lenny reconnected with his family and started a new life outside of Atlanta, Georgia. He had held down a steady job since his exoneration and was in the process of buying a home of his own after receiving compensation. Lenny was doing well and aspired to attend college for music production and start a career in the music business. Sadly, his life was tragically cut short today.

The Innocence Project of Florida mourns Lenny’s loss. We will do all we can to support Lenny’s family and all who knew him and loved him.

The Innocence Project of Florida (IPF) represented Leonard Cure and, in partnership with the Conviction Review Unit of the Broward State Attorney’s Office, achieved his exoneration. IPF continued to help Leonard transition back into free society after his exoneration. For more information about Leonard’s case, visit <https://www.floridainnocence.org/leonard-cure>

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(October 19, 2023, Tallahassee, FL) – The tragic events that took the life of our friend and client [Leonard “Lenny” Cure](#) the morning of October 16th, as seen in the footage released by the Camden County Sheriff’s office, serve as a chilling reminder of the lasting trauma that exonerees carry with them every single day. Interactions with law enforcement can evoke profound anxiety, fear, and an ever-present worry about being wronged by a system that has already taken so much from them.

The traffic stop did not have to end in Lenny’s death. We believe the officer’s aggressive behavior toward Lenny, and his placing Lenny under arrest, triggered a response you would expect from someone who spent 16 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The video released yesterday does not change how we feel about this tragic incident. It shows the last moments of the life of a 53-year-old man who already had 16 years of his life robbed by an unjust justice system.

Lenny’s life story - and his death at the hands of law enforcement - is a grim reminder of the profound injustices that can occur within our criminal justice system. Wrongfully convicted in 2003 for an armed robbery he did not commit, Lenny spent 16 years behind bars, separated from his family and the life he once knew. His exoneration in 2020 brought hope to his life once more, and he reconnected with his family, secured stable employment, and was working on pursuing his dream to attend college for music production to begin a career in the music business. The future held immense promise for him, and we celebrated each step he took toward a brighter tomorrow.

As we continue to grieve the loss of our dear friend and client, we extend our deepest condolences to Lenny’s family and to all those who knew and loved him. We continue to stand with them during this difficult time, offering our unwavering support and working to ensure that

Lenny's memory serves as a tragic example of the urgent need for reform of our criminal justice system.

We must do more to acknowledge the emotional toll that exonerees bear and the complex journey they face toward rebuilding their lives. The Innocence Project of Florida is deeply committed to amplifying the voices of exonerees and what they go through, and addressing the systemic issues that lead to such injustices.

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