



TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION

Justice Through Science

*1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445
Austin, Texas 78701*

June 30, 2020

Via First Class Mail

Mr. Royce W. Tawater
TDCJ# 01950643
Michael Unit
2664 FM 2054
Tennessee Colony, TX 75886

Re: Texas Forensic Science Commission ("TFSC") Complaint No. 20.29

Dear Mr. Tawater:

This letter is to inform you that the referenced complaint was dismissed by commissioners at the TFSC's meeting on June 12, 2020. Your complaint alleges a CODIS hit obtained by the Missouri State Highway Patrol contradicts the prosecution's theory of the case, which is that you are guilty of the offense for which you are currently incarcerated.

The TFSC's jurisdiction in this case governs crime laboratories accredited in Texas. The TFSC reviewed case records with respect to the DNA analysis that led to the CODIS hit as well as the gunshot residue analysis testimony provided by the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Science (SWIFS). The review did not lead the TFSC to conclude that an investigation into professional negligence or misconduct is warranted against any Texas crime laboratory.

The impact of the Missouri CODIS hit within the context of other evidence in your case must be addressed by your legal representative and by a court with jurisdiction over your case. Included with this letter is a list of innocence clinics operating in Texas should you wish to submit your case for consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathryn Adams
Commission Coordinator

/mka
Encl.

cc: Mr. David G. Couch