

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



CADILLAC PLACE
3030 WEST GRAND BOULEVARD
DETROIT, MI 48202

DANA NESSEL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 17, 2022

Imran Syed
University Of Michigan Law School
Michigan Innocence Clinic
701 State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Re: Frederick Freeman aka Temujin Kensu

Dear Imran:

As you know I was appointed as a Special Assistant Attorney General to review and investigate Mr. Kensu's case due to a conflict within the Attorney General's Office (AG) Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU).

I have completed my review of Kensu's case. In conducting the review, I was mindful of the requirements of the AG for granting relief. The AG guidelines mandate that there must be new evidence supporting factual innocence. New evidence means evidence not at all considered at trial or during post-conviction appeals.

As part of my review, I read all the materials provided to me by your office, the AG, and the voluminous materials received from Herb Wesler. I interviewed multiple people myself (with my Detective) and conducted an independent investigation.

I do not have to tell you that Kensu has vigorously litigated his case over the past three decades. He has been represented by lawyers who have combed the record for new information and legal issues. Everything related to this case has been litigated to some degree – Michelle Woodworth, the jailhouse informant recantation, the issues with the lineup and many other legal and factual issues. The CIU investigation has uncovered no *new* evidence that supports the factual innocence claim.

The one person, Beth Stier, who is new does not enhance the alibi that was presented at trial as there were people with Kensu after she left him. There was

testimony at trial about the Big Boy and Kensu's car being broken down and Beth Stier's testimony would have been cumulative to that testimony.

The CIU's decision is driven by the criteria set forth for the AG's office CIU. There is nothing that qualifies as new information supporting the factual innocence claim. Kensu's case is now closed in this office.

We appreciate your organization's zealous advocacy on behalf of your clients and look forward to continued cooperation in regard to other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Newman".

Valerie Newman
Special Assistant Attorney General
Conviction Integrity Unit