

Statement from Keith Lampkin, chief of operations and external affairs for the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office:

"After numerous court hearings, including testimony and evidence over the past year, Judge Willard granted Mr. Smith's post-conviction relief application, filed by defense counsel on December 23, 2023. Subsequently, Mr. Smith pled guilty to manslaughter and armed robbery under the provisions of Alford v. North Carolina.

The judge sentenced Smith to the maximum for Manslaughter in 1986, which was 21 years. Smith also received 21 years for the armed robbery. The judge ordered those sentences to be served concurrently.

The DA's office discovered documents that should have legally been turned over to the defense in 1985. We properly turned over the newly discovered information, which was the basis for Smith's post-conviction relief application.

DA Williams and Executive Assistant DA White maintained constant and consistent communication with the family of the deceased, a beloved baker. They were kept apprised of each step of the proceedings. The family was present with the DA at every single court setting. Mr. Long was a warmhearted stalwart in this vibrant Freret Street corridor. He and his neighborhood bakery were loved by all in one of the few racially diverse neighborhoods of that time. That vibrant corridor was never the same after this crime.

The State was represented by DA Jason Williams and Executive Assistant ADA Bob White."

*Editor's note from The Times-Picayune: Smith's post-conviction relief was granted, via the Alford plea, on Dec. 21, 2023, not Dec. 23, 2023.*