



Minnesota man exonerated after serving nearly five years in prison for a crime he did not commit

Innocence Project of Minnesota helps to free longtime client Javon Davis

Minneapolis, Minn. – 32-year-old Javon Davis has been released from prison after serving nearly five years for a crime he did not commit. Davis, who grew up in Minneapolis, was convicted in 2015 for a shooting that occurred outside of Target Field in the middle of the night on April 12, 2014. No one was killed, but two men were injured, one of them critically. There was little evidence against Davis. The prosecutor presented as motive that Davis had a history of trouble with one of the victims. In addition, a man believed to be the second shooter that night testified against Davis in order to have his own charges dismissed. At trial the second suspect said that he was not at the crime scene, but that Davis made a statement to him that made him believe that Mr. Davis was the shooter. He also claimed to be using Davis’s cell phone that night.

At trial, the victim who had trouble in the past with Davis testified that he was certain that Davis was not at scene of the crime, and that he did not want to send an innocent man to prison. In addition, Davis had an alibi. At the moment of the shooting, Davis was about seven miles away from Target Field talking on his cell phone with his girlfriend. The alibi was supported by cell phone data and tower records and by his girlfriend’s testimony. However, much of this critical evidence was not properly presented to the jury at Davis’ trial. The Innocence Project of Minnesota showed the court that Davis’ conviction should be reversed because key alibi and other evidence was mishandled at trial.

Davis’ exoneration was made possible through years of work by staff at the Innocence Project of Minnesota, students from the University of Minnesota Law School, and pro bono attorney Jon Hopeman.

“Being wrongfully accused of a crime is a horrific experience,” said Hopeman. “We at the Innocence Project were able to prove that Mr. Davis was miles away at the time of the crime, and the justice system got it right. We are thrilled that Davis is going home to his family. He wants to resume coaching youth basketball, get a job and take care of his children – enjoying the daily freedoms that ordinary citizens often take for granted. “

About Innocence Project of Minnesota

The Innocence Project of Minnesota works to free the innocent and prevent future wrongful convictions from occurring in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information visit www.ipmn.org.