

BRIEF OF APPELLANT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM RICHLAND COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

G. Thomas Cooper, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2013-001072

The City of Columbia,

Respondent,

v.

William K. Wilson,

Appellant.

INITIAL BRIEF OF APPELLANT

William K. Wilson
7106 Sunview Circle
Columbia, South Carolina 29209
(803) 776-5594

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JUN 10 2013

SC Court of Appeals

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Authorities	ii
Statement of Issues on Appeal	1
Statement of the Case	1
Facts	1
Arguments	
1. I WAS CHARGED WITH DRIVING TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS BUT FOUND GUILTY OF CHANGING LANES PRIOR TO THE LANES BEING MARKED.....	2
2. THE HOME ADDRESS LISTED ON THE LICENSE OF THE OTHER IS 47.70 MILES FROM THE COLLISION SITE AND THE DRIVER MAY HAVE BEEN UNFAMILIAR WITH THE INTERSECTION.....	2
3. OFFICER ROBINSON'S TESTIMONY ON PAGE ONE LINE NINE AND HER DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLISION ON FROM TR-310 DESCRIBE THE COLLISION AS HAPPENING IN THE SAME LANE.....	3
4. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WOULD GO TO THE EXPENSE OF GRADUALLY WIDENING THE ROADS IF THE PURPOSE OF THAT EXPENSE WAS NOT FOR VEHICLES TO USE THE GRADUAL WIDENING AREA.....	3
5. SECTION 56-5-2120 WHICH GOVERNS RIGHT TURNS DOES NOT REQUIRE VEHICLES TO WAIT UNTIL LANES ARE SPECIFICALLY MARKED.....	3
6. I THINK THAT THE OFFICERS MADE AN IMPROPER CHARGE AND TOO MANY MISTAKES AND THAT THE COURT ERRED IN FOLLOWING THE OFFICERS INTREPETATION OF THE LAW.....	4
Conclusion	4

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES*

STATUTES

S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-2120
S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-2150

STATEMENT OF ISSUES ON APPEAL

1. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN FAILING TO APPLY THE CORRECT STATUTE TO THE CASE AND IN APPLYING THE OFFICER'S EXPLANATION OF THE LAW.
2. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN NOT ALLOWING ME TO FULLY PRESENT MY CASE, IN NOT ALLOWING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION THE WITNESS AND IN NOT ALLOWING ME TO PRESENT THE APPLICABLE STATUE.
3. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN NOT PROVIDING AN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION ASKING WHY THE OFFICER WHO WAS IN CHARGE WHEN THE CITATION WAS WRITTEN WOULD NOT BE IN COURT FOR QUESTIONING.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On June 22, 2012 I was involved in a collision with Anthony Elijah Logan. Officers Rivers and Robinson responded and I was charged with driving too fast for conditions. The trial was in Municipal Court on September 20, 2012 and I was found guilty. I appealed to Circuit Court. The case was heard on February 8, 2013 and the verdict was upheld.

FACTS

The collision occurred at the intersection of Hazelwood Drive and Garners Ferry Road in Columbia, South Carolina. On the day of the collision a SCDOT officer arrived first and moved the two vehicles from the restaurant driveway into the parking lot to clear the driveway for the business traffic. A few minutes later two City of Columbia officers arrived. Officer Rivers appeared to be training Officer Robinson and did all the talking. Officer Rivers interviewed the other driver involved in the collision and then instructed Officer Robinson to write a citation against me while he went next door to visit with two other officers who were investigating a suitcase left at a bus stop. The Uniform Traffic Ticket that I received the day of the collision had an offense code of 64. The Traffic Collision Report Form (Form TR-310) that I obtained later from the police department had an offense code of 21. Offense code 64 is a six point violation and offense code 21 is a two point violation. Most of my time during the trial was used trying to clear up the charge discrepancy. I was found guilty because Officer Robinson testified that I changed lanes too early and Judge Hurley used that evidence to find me guilty of changing lanes

before the lanes were marked. That was the only evidence presented by the prosecution. I was not found guilty of the charge of too fast for conditions. On Appeal Judge G. Thomas Cooper Jr. affirmed the lower court's findings based on factual finding and no error of law.

ARGUMENTS

- I. I WAS CHARGED WITH DRIVING TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS BUT I WAS FOUND GUILTY OF CHANGING LANES PRIOR TO THE LANES BEING LABELED. THAT IS TWO TOTALLY DIFFERENT OFFENSES. IF I CHANGED LANES THAT MEANS THAT THERE WAS A LANE AVAILABLE AT THE POINT OF THE COLLISION TO CHANGE INTO BUT THE LANE JUST HAD NOT BEEN CLEARLY MARKED AT THE POINT OF THE COLLISION. I ADMIT TO MOVING RIGHT AS THE ROADWAYS EXPANDS AND AS SECTION 56-5-2120 REQUIRES IN PREPERATION FOR A TURN BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SPEED OR DRIVING TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS.

THE DAY OF THE COLLISION OFFICER RIVERS AND ROBINSON ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AFTER THE VEHICLES HAD BEEN MOVED INTO THE PARKING LOT. OFFICER RIVERS INTERVIEWED THE OTHER DRIVER AND MADE THE DECISION TO CHARGE ME WITH DRIVING TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS AND INSTRUCED OFFICER ROBINSON TO WRITE THE CITATION. HE THEN WENT NEXT DOOR TO VISIT WITH TWO OTHER OFFICERS WHO WERE INVESTIGATING A SUITCASE LEFT UNATTENDED AT A BUS STOP. OFFICER RIVERS RETUNED FROM HIS VISIT AS OFFICER ROBINSON WAS PRESENTING ME WITH THE CITATION AND SHE ASKED ME IF I UNDERSTOOD WHY I WAS GETTING THE CITATION. I SAID NO TO OFFICER ROBINSON. OFFICER RIVERS THEN TOLD ME THAT I WAS AUTOMATICALLY WRONG WHEN I HIT ANOTHER VEHICLE IN THE REAR. WHEN I EXPLAINED THAT THE COLISION WAS NOT IN THE REAR AND SAID IF LOOKED AT THE DAMAGE TO THE VEHICLES HE COULD SEE THAT THE COLLISION WAS NOT IN THE REAR. HE THEN SAID THAT I HAD CHANGED LANES TOO SOON.

- II THE HOME ADDRESS LISTED ON THE DRIVERS LICENSE OF THE OTHER DRIVER IS 47.70 MILES FROM THE COLLISION SITE AND THE DRIVER MAY HAVE BEEN UNFAMILIAR WITH THE INTERSECTION. MY ADDRESS IS 2.56 MILES FROM THE SITE AND I USE THE INTERSECTION ONCE OR TWICE A DAY. IT WAS CRITICAL TO MY CASE THAT I BE ALLOWED TO QUESTION THE CITY WITNESS. THE WHITE LINE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD MARKING ONE LANE ENDS APPROXIMATELY 105 FEET BEFORE

THE ENTRANCE TO THE RESTURANT WHERE THE COLLISION OCCURRED. TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 56-5-2150 THE DRIVER WOULD NEED TO KNOW WHERE HE WAS GOING TO TURN AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVING A SIGNAL TO TURN RIGHT WHEN THE WHITE LINE FOR ONE LANE DISAPPEARED AND THE ROAD BEGAN TO WIDEN OR BEFORE. I DID NOT SEE A SIGNAL.

III.

OFFICER ROBINSON'S TESTIMONY ON PAGE ONE LINE NINE AND HER DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLISION ON FROM TR-310 DESCRIBE THE COLLISION AS HAPPENING IN THE SAME LANE. ON PAGE FIVE LINE NINETEEN HER TESTIMONY TESTIFIES THAT I CHANGED LANES AND MOVED TO THE RIGHT BEFORE THE LANES CHANGED INTO THREE LANES. THEREFORE I THINK THAT THE CHARGE AND THE OFFICERS TESTIMONY CONFLICTS. THE OTHER DRIVER MADE A RIGHT TURN INTO MY PATHWAY AFTER I HAD MOVED OVER IN PREPERATION FOR MY TURN AT THE INTERSECTION.

IV.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WOULD GO TO THE EXPENSE OF GRADUALLY WIDENENING THE ROADS IF THE PURPOSE OF THAT EXPENSE WAS NOT FOR VEHICLES TO USE THE GRADUAL WIDNENING AREA. ONCE THE WHITE LINE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROADWAY MARKING ONE LANE DISAPPEARS AND THE ROAD BEGINS TO WIDEN I BELIEVE THAT VEHICLE PREPARING TO TURN MUST BEGIN TO MOVE TO THE RIGHT WITH THE ROAD IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 56-5-2120. BY THE TIME A VEHICLE REACHES THE POINT WHERE THE LANES ARE MARKED THE DRIVER SHOULD HAVE ALREADY PICKED A LANE. IF YOU WAITED UNTIL AFTER THE LANES ARE CLEARLY MARKED TO PICK YOUR LANE IT WOULD BE A DISASTER AND YOU WOULD HAVE MORE COLLISIONS SIMILAR TO WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF THIS COLLISION.

V.

SECTION 56-5-2120 WHICH GOVERNS RIGHT TURNS DOES NOT REQUIRE VEHICLES TO WAIT UNTIL LANES ARE SPECIFICALLY MAKED BEFORE MOVING LEFT OR RIGHT. THE SECTION DOES REQUIRES THAT BOTH THE TURN AND THE APPROACH SHALL BE MADE AS CLOSE AS PRACTICABLE TO THE EDGE OF THE ROADWAY AS PRACTICABLE.

IF THE OTHER DRIVER HAD PROPERLY PREPARED FOR HIS TURN AND GIVEN A SIGNAL FOR 100 FEET AND MOVED TO THE RIGHT IN PREPERATION FOR THE TURN THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A COLLISION.

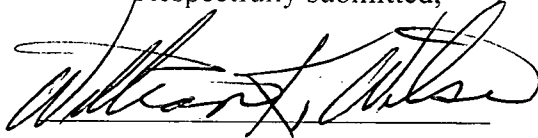
VI. I THINK THAT THE OFFICERS MADE AN IMPROPER CHARGE AND TOO MANY MISTAKES AND THAT THE COURT ERRED IN FOLLOWING THE OFFICIERS INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW. I WAS CHARGED TOO FAST FOR CONDITION. I WAS PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED OF SHIFTING LANES IMPROPERLY. THE COLLISION REPORTS DESCRIBES THE COLLISION HAPPENING IN ONE LANE. THE TRAFFIC TICKET HAD A SIX POINT VIOLATION CODE AND THE COLLISION REPORT HAD A TWO POINT VIOLATION CODE. THIS MAKES A DEFENSE DIFFICULT.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated, this Court should reverse the judgment of the municipal court or dismiss the charge.

June 10, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William K. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

William K. Wilson
7106 Sunview Circle
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(803) 776-5594
Appellant

**DESIGNATION OF MATTER TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE RECORD ON APPEAL**

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**DESIGNATION OF MATTER TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE RECORD ON APPEAL**

Appellant proposes the following be included in the Record on Appeal:

1. Transcript of September 20, 2012;
2. Order of April 24, 2013;
3. Appellant Exhibit – Description of collision and the collision site;
4. Appellant Exhibit – Description of vehicle damage;
5. Appellant Exhibit – Description of debris location;
6. Traffic ticket and officer's collision report:

I certify that this designation contains no matter which is irrelevant to this appeal and that all exhibits were submitted to the trial court. The court would not let me submit sections 56-5-2120 and 56-5-2150.

June 10, 2013


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PROOF OF SERVICE OF A DESIGNATION OF MATTER

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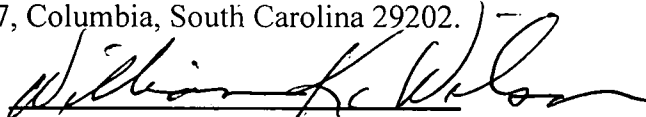
William K. Wilson,

Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the designation of matter on the City of Columbia by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on June 10, 2013 addressed to Office of City Attorney, Post Office Box 667, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

June 10, 2013



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PROOF OF SERVICE OF INITIAL BRIEF

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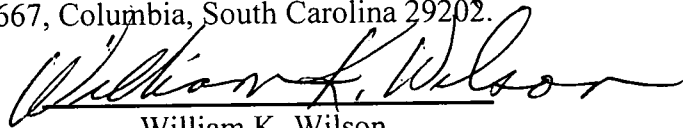
William K. Wilson,

Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the initial brief of appellant on the City of Columbia by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on June 10, 2013, addressed to Office of City Attorney, Post Office Box 667, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

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