

RECEIVED

Mar 23 2023

SC Court of Appeals



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

Division of Appellate Defense
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-3332
Post Office Box 11589
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1589
Telephone: (803) 734-1330
Facsimile: (803) 734-1397

Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender
Wanda H. Carter, Deputy Chief Appellate Defender

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, S.C. Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: State v. Mathia Lamont Chambers, Appellate Case No. 2022-000689

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

The brief of appellant and designation of matter to be included in the record on appeal in the above titled case were due to be served and filed with this Court on September 30, 2022. I filed a motion to hold the case in abeyance on September 16, 2022, to obtain the transcripts of a guilty plea proceeding and an ex parte hearing dated March 16, 2022. I filed a motion to unseal the ex parte hearing on October 14, 2022. The Court ordered the ex parte hearing unsealed on November 28, 2022. Thereafter, I received a transcript dated March 10, 2022, containing the ex parte hearing. Apparently, a motion hearing, which included the ex parte hearing, occurred on May 10, 2022, and not on March 16, 2022. However, the guilty proceeding, which was held on March 16, 2022, has not been transcribed because the court reporter has not located a record of the same. Our research into the matter confirmed that a guilty plea proceeding **was** held on March 16, 2022. This has been verified by trial counsel and the Lexington County Clerk, and from a review of the language within the notice of appeal and sentence sheet.

At this juncture, I anticipate that a petition to reconstruct the record of the guilty plea proceeding is the next step in the case. Said petition will be filed in the very near future.

I am available should any questions arise in connection with this matter or if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Wanda H. Carter

Deputy Chief Appellate Defender

WHC/sl

cc: William M. Blich, Jr.