



# TENTH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

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February 15, 2024

**RECEIVED**

**Feb 16 2024**

**SC Court of Appeals**

Honorable Catherine S. Harrison  
Chief Deputy Clerk  
The South Carolina Court of Appeals  
P.O. Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

RE: The State v. Michael E. Thompson, Sr.  
Appellate Case No. 2024-000181

Dear Ms. Harrison:

Please accept this letter as my response to your deficiency letter dated February 12, 2024, as to the information required pursuant to the South Carolina Appellate Court Rule 203(d)(1)(B)(iv) for an appeal of a guilty plea.

For background, Mr. Thompson entered a guilty plea in the Anderson County Court of General Sessions on January 31, 2024, before the Hon. Brian M. Gibbons. Mr. Thompson was originally indicted for Assault & Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature and Resisting Arrest and was on the trial docket for the following week. After several discussions with the Solicitor, an offer was made to Mr. Thompson to reduce the ABHAN charge to Assault & Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Degree with a recommendation to the Court for a sentence of 10 years suspended to the service of 4 years followed by 5 years of probation to include inpatient rehab, anger management and mental health counseling with credit for the time already served. The victim on the case was present and informed of this plea offer and was in agreement with the same.

After hearing the facts of the case, hearing from the victim and being informed of Mr. Thompson's lengthy record, Judge Gibbons declined to follow the recommendation and sentenced Mr. Thompson to the maximum of 10 years on the Assault & Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and a concurrent 1 year on the Resisting Arrest with credit for the time already served.

Understandably, Mr. Thompson was upset with the outcome and the fact Judge Gibbons did not follow the recommendation. It was explained to Mr. Thompson, both by me before the plea and by Judge Gibbons on the record, that the offer was just a recommendation to the Court

was any legal ground to file. However, Mr. Thompson insisted I file an appeal which I did on his behalf.

Therefore, pursuant to the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules and as an officer of the Court, I do not believe there are any meritorious issues to be reviewed as to this appeal. This appeal was filed at the direction of my client which I believe I was required to do as an exercise of his legal right to an appeal.

If there is any further information required, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CLA', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles L. Anderson

CLA/ca

cc: Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire  
Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire  
Catherine Townsend Huey, Esquire  
Robert Michael Dedek, Esquire