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S.C. SUPREME COURT

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 4, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Adele J. Pope

adele@popelawfirm.com

RE: Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) Requests

Dear Ms. Pope:

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General (the “Office”) has received four FOIA requests from you this year relating to James Brown. The Office received your first FOIA request on January 18, 2024, and it provided a partial response on March 28, 2024. On March 22, 2024, a second FOIA request from you was hand delivered to the Office. Later on March 22, 2024, you emailed a third FOIA request, which included clarifications to your second FOIA request. On March 29, 2024, you emailed a fourth FOIA request, which again seeks a copy of the date of death appraisal of the Estate of James Brown.

On March 29, 2024, the South Carolina Supreme Court issued an Order in Appellate Case Numbers 2024-000176 and 2024-0005000 ordering you to appear on May 29, 2024, and show cause why you should not be held in criminal contempt for violating the South Carolina Supreme Court’s Orders of June 10, 2015, and August 10, 2020, when you submitted your January 18, 2024, FOIA request to the Office.

It appears to the Office that the records you requested are exempt from FOIA pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40(a)(4), specifically the South Carolina Supreme Court’s Orders of June 10, 2015, August 10, 2020, and March 29, 2024.

Accordingly, the Office is holding all of your current FOIA requests in abeyance. The Office does not plan to supplement its initial response to your first FOIA request or respond at all to your second, third, or fourth FOIA requests until after the Supreme Court reaches a decision regarding the criminal contempt charges against you.

Sincerely yours,

Office of the South Carolina
Attorney General

cc: The South Carolina Supreme Court
Mr. Don Zelenka