



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

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April 23, 2025

Mr. Robert Michael Dudek, Esquire
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1000 Assembly St.
Capital And Collateral Litigation Div.
Columbia SC 29201

Re: The State v. Tirik J. Johnson-Epps
Appellate Case No. 2023-000179

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed is the decision of the Court. The remittitur will be sent as provided by Rule 221(b) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

Very truly yours,


CLERK

cc: Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Melody Jane Brown, Esquire
Donald J. Zelenka, Esquire
Edgar Lewis Clements, III, Esquire
The Honorable D. Craig Brown

**THIS OPINION HAS NO PRECEDENTIAL VALUE. IT SHOULD NOT BE
CITED OR RELIED ON AS PRECEDENT IN ANY PROCEEDING
EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY RULE 268(d)(2), SCACR.**

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals**

The State, Respondent,

v.

Tirik Jaquan Johnson-Epps, Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2023-000179

Appeal From Florence County
D. Craig Brown, Circuit Court Judge

Unpublished Opinion No. 2025-UP-135
Submitted April 16, 2025 – Filed April 23, 2025

REVERSED AND REMANDED

Chief Appellate Defender Robert Michael Dudek, of
Columbia, for Appellant.

Attorney General Alan McCrory Wilson, Deputy
Attorney General Donald J. Zelenka, Senior Assistant
Deputy Attorney General Melody Jane Brown, and
Assistant Attorney General William Joseph Maye, all of
Columbia, and Solicitor Edgar L. Clements, III, of
Florence, all for Respondent.

PER CURIAM: Tirik Jaquan Johnson-Epps appeals his convictions for murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime and sentence of life imprisonment. We reverse and remand pursuant to Rule 220(b), SCACR.

We hold the trial court erred by denying Johnson-Epps's request to individually poll the jurors because the denial of his right to an individual poll of each juror is reversible per se. *See State v. Adams*, 409 S.C. 641, 647, 763 S.E.2d 341, 344 (2014) ("[An appellate] court reviews questions of law de novo."); *State v. Wright*, 439 S.C. 101, 102, 886 S.E.2d 206, 207 (2023) ("The denial of a defendant's request [that the jury be individually polled] is reversible per se."). Because we reverse the trial court's finding regarding individual jury polling, we decline to address Johnson-Epps's remaining arguments. *See Futch v. McAllister Towing of Georgetown, Inc.*, 335 S.C. 598, 613, 518 S.E.2d 591, 598 (1999) (declining to address remaining issues when resolution of a different issue was dispositive).

REVERSED AND REMANDED.¹

KONDUROS, MCDONALD, and HEWITT, JJ., concur.

¹ We decide this case without oral argument pursuant to Rule 215, SCACR.