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SC Court of Appeals



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April 30, 2025

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

Re: The State v. Justin Hopkins, Appellate Case No. 2022-001567

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

The above-referenced case is scheduled for oral argument on Thursday, May 6, 2025, before a panel of the Court of Appeals. Pursuant to Rule 208(b)(7), SCACR, I am submitting supplemental authority that is pertinent and significant authority for the validity of the vehicle stop outlined in Argument I of Appellant's Brief. Under that argument, appellant would cite to State v. Rowland, 444 S.C. 84, 96, 905 S.E.2d 825, 831 (Ct. App. 2024) as pertinent and significant authority regarding the ability to stop and briefly detain the occupants of a car. In addition, in light of the state's reliance on good faith surrounding Argument III of Appellant's Brief, State v. Carter, 445 S.C. 157, 912 S.E.2d 264 (2025) is pertinent and significant authority for the general proposition that actions taken with good-faith belief that their conduct is lawful do not mandate suppression.

If you have questions or require more information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary H. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary H. Johnson
Appellate Defender

cc: Tommy Evans, Jr., Esquire