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October 15, 2013

SC Court of Appeals

The Honorable Howard P. King  
Circuit Court Judge  
P O Box 189  
Sumter, SC 29151-0189

COPY

Re: The State of South Carolina vs. Roderick Jerome Sellers  
Indictment No.: 2012-GS-21-00354

Dear Judge/Mr. King:

My name is Daisy O. Sellers-Bostick and my brother, Roderick J. Sellers, was sentenced to four years in prison on September 17, 2013. For the past 38 years that day has been one of happiness and celebration for me but this year, my celebration was ruined with the news that my brother was found guilty for a crime we don't even know if he committed.

So, I'm writing this letter to beg you and the courts to please reconsider your sentence. **There is so much more to this case than what was presented in court.** Unfortunately, the public defender in my brother's case was unaware of everything until the day the trial was set to begin. You see Roderick does not even remember the accident so he was unable to help in his own defense. For two years he was being told by his friend that he didn't remember the accident either. So, as someone who has faith in the justice system and a true believer that justice would prevail; I advised my brother not to take a plea for something that he doesn't remember. I told him that things would work out in the end. We had no idea that the other gentleman involved in the accident was going to all of a sudden remember that he was innocent and my brother was the only one who had done anything wrong. Otherwise, I would have advised him to take the plea deal and not roll the dice. Please do not get me wrong, I know that drinking and driving is against the law and I do not condone it by any means.

The night of the accident, I was awoken from my sleep and sent to Carolina Hospital to check on my brother. All I was told was that he had been in a bad accident and the doctor's needed a family member to hurry up and get there. Since I lived the closest to the hospital they called me to go. Upon my arrival the trooper approached me and advised me that he was being charged. I talked to the trooper several times while he was in the hospital. I asked the trooper how it was determined who was driving the car since neither of the two gentlemen remembered the accident. I was told that based on the locations of the bodies to the car it was determined that he was driving. I don't personally

know the trooper but I believe it was determined who was driving based on who the car was registered to not the location of the bodies.

I attempted to give the trooper the name of another person who I felt had some key information about the accident. The trooper admitted that there was a young man at the scene of the accident that was running around and kept getting in the way. Upon the trooper's description of the young man, I determined that we were talking about the say person. However, because the trooper had already come to the conclusion that my brother was driving he was not interested in talking to the other young man.

The reason I felt this young man was involved is because he claimed that he had already gotten out of the car long before the accident occurred. However, he arrived on the scene before the lady whose yard they landed in could put on her robe and come outside. Plus his face was bruised, he was holding his side, and he smelled of alcohol the next day when he attempted to visit my brother in the hospital. Because the trooper had already told us that he was being charged, the family refused to allow anyone to visit him that wasn't family. This was done in hopes that he would remember the accident on his own and not have people put things into his head that might not have been true. Which he never has remembered!

Still to this day, I do not know why my brother was the only one tested the night of the accident when both gentlemen should have been tested. I do not understand why the trooper would not at least talk to the young man on the scene of the accident. But that is neither here nor there. The finger should not have been pointed at one person but at both as they were both equally in the wrong. They were both or all drinking and one of them willingly got into the car with someone who had been drinking and was about to drive under the influence. Since neither of them remembers the accident, I guess only the man upstairs will really know what happened on that night.

We as a family did not get involved because we were being told that everything looked good. That he had an attorney and neither gentleman remembered the accident and there was nothing to worry about. Once he was giving his driver's license back, we thought this was all over. It was not until Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> that we found out that the other man allegedly remembered the accident and was coming to testify against our brother and not for him.

Your Honor, Roderick and his 3-year old daughter, has been living with our mother who is 65 years old so that she would not be alone. Now with his recent conviction, his daughter has had to go back to her mother which is not a safe environment for her and my mother is left in the house alone. His attorney has filed an appeal on his behalf and I am sending this letter to beg for your reconsideration of his sentences. I noticed that he is up for parole on September 17, 2014. To best of my knowledge he does not have a criminal

record, thus my family is asking...no we are begging and pleading...that you and/or the courts either allow him to serve the year on house arrest so that he will still be able to take care of his daughter and stay with my mother. Or allow him to serve his year at Palmer in Florence, SC.

We have also spoken with employer, Warren Parrott owner of Parrott's Welding in Scranton, SC. Roderick has been working with him since sometime after the accident. Mr. Parrott states what we already know and that is that Roderick is a good and hard worker. Right now he is in somewhat of a bind without Roderick. He had his own crew of people working under him. They are putting up four fire stations in Florence and Williamsburg counties and he really was counting on having Roderick for these jobs. He would like to talk with you or request a meeting with you if either is possible. His number is 843-598-1962. He states that if there is a fine that he needs to pay he can send half of his cash pay to go towards the fine and hope you will allow him to keep half to support his daughter. He also states that he is willing to put a mobile home on his property for him to stay in on the job. He can have him alcohol and drug tested weekly.

We, Roderick, the Sellers Family, Warren Parrott, and Parrott's Welding, are thanking you kindly for your consideration of this request,



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