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S.C. SUPREME COURT

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 4, 2025

The Honorable Patricia A. Howard
Clerk, South Carolina Supreme Court
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Alonzo T. Jones v. State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No: 2022-000158

Dear Ms. Howard:

On March 24, 2025, Petitioner Alonzo T. Jones in the above-referenced case filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari solely seeking affirmance of the post-conviction relief judge's order granting him belated appellate review pursuant to Austin v. State, 305 S.C. 453, 409 S.E.2d 395 (1991). On that same date, Jones also filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari Pursuant to Austin v. State, raising two issues.

The State does not contest the granting of belated appellate review. Therefore, please accept this letter in lieu of a formal return to Jones's Petition for Writ of Certiorari. However, in the event this Court desires a formal return to the petition, undersigned counsel is fully prepared to promptly provide one upon request.

Additionally, the State intends to respond to the substantive issue raised in the Petition for Writ of Certiorari Pursuant to Austin v. State. Accordingly, the State is contemporaneously filing its Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari Pursuant to Austin v. State along with this letter.

Sincerely,

D. RUSSELL BARLOW, II
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General
S.C. Bar Number 105228