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SC Court of Appeals

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court, South Carolina Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(via email only – ctappfilings@sccourts.org)

Re: State v. Mark Elliott Martin, Jr.
Appellate Case # 2025-002350 & # 2025-002314

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

The two above-referenced matters are currently pending before the Court. One involves a motion filed pursuant to the South Carolina Homeland Security Act that is seeking the suppression of certain Ring camera recordings. The other involves a State's appeal of a circuit court ruling suppressing evidence, including the Ring camera recordings, pursuant to Rule 901 of the South Carolina Rules of Evidence. Thus, both matters relate to the same evidence but in different ways. At present, both matters are currently in abeyance pending receipt of the transcripts from the circuit court proceedings that have occurred so far.

Please be advised the State is now in receipt of the transcripts necessary for the matters to move forward as of February 3, 2026. Accordingly, the State's Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in the State's appeal will be due on or before March 5, 2026, unless the Office of Appellate Defense is taking over the representation of the respondent on appeal from his current counsel, Jeffrey Scott Stephens, Esquire. Furthermore, due to the interconnected nature of these matters and the need for the State to review the newly-obtained transcripts, the State respectfully asks this Court to permit the State to likewise submit its return to the motion to suppress filed pursuant to the South Carolina Homeland Security Act on or before the same March 5, 2026, filing timeline applicable to the State's appeal.

Thank you very much, and please let me know if you need any additional information or if I have made any errors concerning the due date calculations.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Farthing
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General
SC Bar No. 76901

MRF/cc

cc: Jeffrey Scott Stephens, Esquire (via email)
Wanda H. Carter, Esquire (via email)
Brian H. Gibbs, Assistant Attorney General (via email)
Victim Advocacy Division (via email)