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S.C. SUPREME COURT

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 29, 2026

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

RE: Joshua Blake Griffith v. State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No. 2026-000718

Dear Ms. Howard:

The above-referenced post-conviction relief appeal is currently pending before this Court. While working on the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, I discovered a necessary transcript/recording—of which I was not previously aware—had not been ordered. The transcript was from a virtual hearing held before the PCR judge, the Honorable J. Mark Hayes, II, via WebEx, and consists of testimony from a witness, appellate counsel Robert M. Dudek, who was unable to appear at the PCR hearing held six days later, on October 30, 2024. I have discussed this matter with opposing counsel, Frank L. Eppes, and he confirmed he also was not aware this transcript had not been ordered. The State made an expedited request for that transcript today.

Because this transcript is critical to both the State and Mr. Griffith in regard to the issue of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel, the parties jointly and respectfully ask that the time limits for submitting both the Petition for Writ of Certiorari of Petitioner-Respondent AND the Petition for Writ of Certiorari of Respondent-Petitioner be held in abeyance pending receipt of that transcript.

Both parties apologize for this oversight and assure the Court that their request is not made for the purpose of delay. Counsel for Respondent-Petitioner has consented to this joint request. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

J. Benjamin Aplin
Assistant Attorney General
SC Bar No. 8729

JBA/ss

cc: Frank L. Eppes, Esquire
Victim Advocacy Division