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Wanda H. Carter, Chief Appellate Defender

August 10, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, South Carolina Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211
(via email filing)

RECEIVED

Aug 10 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Re: Jorge Rodriguez v. The State | Appellate Case No. 2025-001507

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

On June 9, 2026, this Court issued an Order holding the above-referenced case in abeyance for thirty (30) days on motion of undersigned counsel to provide time to discuss the merits and dangers of abandoning his appeal with Petitioner. On July 14, 2026, on motion of undersigned counsel, this Court extended the abeyance until today, August 10, 2026, to provide undersigned counsel with more time to confer with Petitioner.

On July 10, 2026, undersigned counsel initiated a legal call with Petitioner. Petitioner informed undersigned counsel that he was still considering whether to withdraw his appeal. Undersigned counsel informed Petitioner of the Court's deadline. Following this call, undersigned counsel mailed Petitioner additional copies of a "drop" affidavit that Petitioner would need to sign before a notary and return to undersigned counsel *via* US Mail if he wished to abandon his appeal and a "continue" affidavit to do same with if he wished to not to withdraw his appeal.

On August 7, 2026, having received no other correspondence from Petitioner, undersigned counsel initiated another legal call with Petitioner. Petitioner informed undersigned counsel that he desired another thirty (30) day extension because he was seeking to hire private counsel to raise a different issue that he believed was omitted. Undersigned counsel informed Petitioner that this Court had discretion to deny further requests to continue the abeyance, which Petitioner indicated he understood. Undersigned counsel again mailed Petitioner copies of the "drop" and "continue" affidavits, so that he could sign the proper affidavit before a notary and return to undersigned counsel.

Undersigned counsel has made consistent, good faith efforts to ascertain whether it is the desire of Petitioner to abandon the appeal of the denial of his application for post-conviction relief. However, despite these efforts, undersigned counsel has not been able to determine

whether Petitioner wishes to proceed with or abandon his appeal, nor has Petitioner returned any affidavits to the undersigned indicating his desire.

For these reasons, undersigned counsel respectfully requests that this Court hold this appeal in abeyance for an additional, **final**, thirty (30) day period, until September 8, 2026. Should undersigned counsel not receive a returned affidavit indicating a desire to withdraw the appeal of the denial of his application for post-conviction relief from Petitioner before September 8, 2026, counsel has informed Petitioner that undersigned counsel will not move to dismiss this case. Should this Court decide not to grant such extension, undersigned counsel asks that this Court disregard the request to abandon the appeal and decide the case on the merits.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Chandler Norville".

W. Chandler Norville
Appellate Defender

WCN/kpw

cc: Mark R. Farthing, Esquire
Jorge Alberto Rodriguez