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Aug 21 2026

SC Court of Appeals

From: [Jason Fetzer](#)
To: [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)
Subject: Appellant case num: 2026-001041
Date: Friday, August 21, 2026 4:28:41 PM
Attachments: [Statement and Defense to Trespassing Charge.pdf](#)

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Statement and Defense to Trespassing Charge

DEFENDANT: Jason Fetzer
CASE NO.: 20240610562565
DATE OF INCIDENT: July 17, 2024
LOCATION: 1431 Assembly St, Columbia, SC 29201

Statement and Defense

I, Jason Fetzer, respectfully submit this statement in defense of the trespassing charge arising from my arrest for allegedly refusing to leave the premises upon request.

At the time of the incident, I was attempting to leave the premises and was physically walking away from the property. I was not attempting to remain on the premises after being asked to leave. My actions were directed toward departing from the property, not toward staying there.

I dispute the allegation that I intentionally refused to leave. My conduct demonstrated that I was attempting to comply with the request to leave. I was walking away from the premises rather than remaining there, refusing to move, attempting to enter another area, or otherwise trying to maintain my presence on the property.

Defense

The central issue is whether my conduct constituted an intentional refusal to leave after I was directed to do so. I respectfully contend that it did not.

I was already in the process of leaving. My physical movement away from the premises is important evidence of my intent and directly contradicts an allegation that I deliberately refused to depart.

If the officer believed that I was not leaving quickly enough or that I had not complied in the manner the officer expected, that does not necessarily establish that I intentionally refused to leave. There is a distinction between refusing to leave and attempting to leave but not departing in the exact manner or timeframe expected by the officer.

I respectfully request that the circumstances be evaluated based upon my actual conduct, including:

1. My physical movement away from the premises;
2. The direction in which I was walking;
3. Whether I made any statement expressly refusing to leave;

4. Whether I attempted to remain on or return to the property;
5. The exact timing of the officer's request compared with my movements; and
6. Any available body-camera, surveillance, witness, or other evidence showing what occurred.

I maintain that I was attempting to leave and was walking away from the premises. I therefore respectfully dispute the characterization that I intentionally refused to leave.

I request that the charge be dismissed or, if the matter proceeds to trial, that I be found not guilty if the prosecution cannot prove every required element of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt.

Declaration

I declare that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Respectfully submitted,

DEFENDANT: Jason Fetzer

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

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