

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

The State, Respondent,

v.

Braden Spears Bowers, Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2026-000479

ORDER

Appellant filed a "petition for order to unseal court's exhibits and continue abeyance hold." The petition sought an order from this court to unseal (1) "Court's Exhibit # 1 (Bail Order)" and (2) "Court's Exhibit # 2 (Plea/Bail Conditions),"¹ which were introduced under seal at Appellant's guilty plea hearing. Respondent filed a return indicating that unsealing these exhibits posed potential danger to Appellant and proposing an alternative remedy which Appellant's counsel did not oppose. Respondent's return requested this court to: "(1) deny Bowers's request to fully unseal the previously-sealed court's exhibits at this time; (2) issue an order directing Court's Exhibit # 1 and Court's Exhibit # 2 be transported to this Court under seal; and (3) permit both counsel for the State and Bowers's appellate counsel to review the exhibits under seal once those sealed exhibits have been successfully transported to the Court." Appellant did not file a reply.

After careful consideration, we deny Appellant's motion to unseal without prejudice and grant Respondent's request for implementing an alternative remedy to review the sealed exhibits. The clerk of court for the Greenville County General Sessions Court in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit shall transport under seal Court's Exhibit # 1 and Court's Exhibit # 2 to this Court. Within twenty days of receipt, counsel for both parties may review the documents under seal. Nothing in this order prevents the parties from filing a motion with this Court to unseal the documents necessary for this appeal upon review. This appeal will continue to be held in abeyance pending the receipt of the sealed exhibits. However, within

¹ Respondent's return describes Court's Exhibit #2 as "Consent Order."

twenty days of the court receiving the documents, the parties shall review said exhibits and file any further motions. The appeal will no longer be held in abeyance following the parties' review of the exhibits.


_____. J.
FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire
Wanda H. Carter, Esquire
The Honorable Jay Gresham

FILED
Oct 21 2026