

January 23, 2014

Jenny A. Kitchings, Clerk
South Carolina Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11626
Columbia, SC 29211

RE: The State vs. Samuel Owens; 2014-000039

Dear Ms. Kitchens:

Let this letter serve as formal response to the Clerk's inquiry of SCACR 203(d)(1)(B)(iv); an appeal from a guilty plea. Pursuant to the aforementioned rule, the appellant must provide a written explanation showing that there is an issue which can be reviewed on appeal. This explanation must identify the issues to be raised on appeal and the factual basis for the issues including how the issues were raised below and the ruling of the lower court.

Mr. Owens appeals on the grounds that he took an "unwanted plea." The Court of Appeals may interpret this as meaning his guilty plea was not a product of his own volition. "To find a guilty plea is voluntarily and knowingly entered into, the record must establish the defendant had a full understanding of the consequences of his plea and the charges against him." Roddy v. State, 339 S.C. 29, 33, 528 S.E.2d 418, 421 (2000).

This issue was raised before the Honorable R. Keith Kelly, Circuit Court Judge before Mr. Owens' plea was accepted. Judge Kelly found that Mr. Owens plea was voluntary and knowingly entered which the record would reflect.

By copy of this letter, I am informing Mr. Owens that he has the ability to submit to this Court his stated grounds for the appeal.

I would further respectfully request to be relieved as counsel as previously filed with the Court.

Respectfully Submitted,


John G. Reckenbeil

JGR/kae

CC: Salley W. Elliott
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

Samuel Owens

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SC Court of Appeals