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October 12, 2017

Ms. V. Claire Allen
South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

RECEIVED
OCT 16 2017
SC Court of Appeals

Re: The State v. Gregory S. Tillman
Appellate Case No. 2017-002033

Dear Ms. Allen,

Per our phone conversation on October 10, 2017, I wanted to follow up with you with regard to a letter that was sent to the Court of Appeals by Mr. Gregory Tillman. It is my understanding that in Mr. Tillman's letter he requests an appeal from his guilty plea that he entered in Saluda County on August 23, 2017, in front of the Honorable Judge Grace Knie.

By copy of this letter, I wanted to inform the court that Mr. Tillman never informed me that he wanted me to file an appeal in this case. It is my understanding that Mr. Tillman only wishes to raise the issue that he feels that he received more time than he was expecting to receive when he pled guilty. I recall that I told Mr. Tillman prior to his guilty plea that I would request a sentence of 12 months, but that the ultimate decision was up to the court.

I did not file a Rule 203 (B) explanation because, as an officer of the court, I do not believe Mr. Tillman's letter to the Court of Appeals constitutes a valid Notice of Appeal as it was not filed by an attorney and thus would constitute hybrid representation. Additionally, any request made by Mr. Tillman for me to file a Notice of Appeal at this time would not be timely.

Please know that if you should need any additional information from me with regard to this matter I remain pleased to provide it to you.

Sincerely,



Bennett Elliot Casto
Tri-County Public Defender

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