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IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM CHEROKEE COUNTY
J. Derham Cole, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No.:2016-001633

Case No.: Sex/Indecent Exposure 14-GS-11-01085; Sex/Indecent Exposure 15-GS-11-00938

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

DOSSIE FAISON, JR.,

APPELLANT.

§

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SC Court of Appeals

FINAL BRIEF OF APPELLANT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....i

Table of Authoritiesii

Statement of Issues On Appeal.....1

Statement of the Case.....2

Statement of Facts.....3-4

Appellant Appeals.....5-6

Conclusion.....7

Argument:

1. The Court erred in ordering the Appellant to register as a sex offender where the Court failed to make specific findings on the record as to why the Appellant should be given such a status and/or sentence.
2. The lower court judge erred in not granting a new trial on the basis that there was insufficient corroboration of the alleged victim’s assertion to warrant a conviction by the jury of the appellant for the offense of indecent exposure.
3. The Court erred in not quashing the indictment on the basis that the statute is void for vagueness and the November 20, 2014 Indictment had been dismissed with prejudice and thus the Defendant was subjected to Double Jeopardy.

Conclusion.....

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

State Cases:

State v Williams, 108 S.C. 295,93 S.E.....

State v Sanders, 37 N.C. App. 53, 245 S.E. 2d 397 (N.C. App. 1978).....

APPELLANT'S STATEMENT OF ISSUES ON APPEAL

1. Whether the Court erred in ordering the Appellant to register as a sex offender where the Court failed to make specific findings on the record as to why the Appellant should be given such a status and/or sentence.
2. The lower court judge erred in not granting a new trial on the basis that there was insufficient corroboration of the alleged victim's assertion to warrant a conviction by the jury of the appellant for the offense of indecent exposure.
3. Whether the Court erred in not quashing the indictment on the basis that the statute is void for vagueness and the November 20, 2014 Indictment had been dismissed with prejudice and thus the Defendant was subjected to Double Jeopardy.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Appellant was indicted on November 14, 2014 by a Cherokee County grand jury for the offense of indecent exposure. (R.p. 4-8). Then on October 1, 2015, the Appellant was again indicted by a Cherokee County Grand Jury for the same offense and same alleged facts. (R.p.-4-8).

Appellant's legal counsel filed a Motion to Quash the indictment and also argued that S.C. Code Sect. 15-15-130 is unconstitutionally vague. (R. p. 27-28).

This case was called to trial on August 2, 2016 and concluded on August 3, 2016 before the Honorable J. Derham Cole. Fletcher Smith, Jr. represented the appellant. Kimberly Laskanic assistant solicitor represented the state.

On August 3, 2016 the appellant was found guilty of the criminal offense of indecent exposure under Indictment 2015-GS-11-938. (R. p. 152). Judge Cole sentenced the appellant to 3 years in prison and a payment of a fine of \$3,000.00 provided, however that the sentence would be suspended upon the service of 18 months and a payment of a fine of \$100.00 plus costs and assessments. (R.p. 155-157). The balance was to be suspended during the period of probation for 5 years. (R. p. 156). The Court also ordered the defendant to register as a sex offender pursuant to South Carolina Code § 23-3-430. (R.p. 156).

The appellant's legal counsel requested that the Court not order the appellant to register as a sex offender. (R.p. 155-157).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The appellant Dossie Faison, Jr. came to be charged with a criminal offense of indecent exposure by Barbara Humphries who stated that Dossie Faison Jr., exposed his penis to her at a convenience store. (R.p. 47).

The incident occurred around 10:00am on September 1, 2014 at the Quick Quack convenience store where the alleged victim went to the store to pick up a pack of cigarettes and then go to work. (R.p. 46). The alleged victim states that she got out of her car and that the defendant was there and he was talking with another man. (R.p. 48). The alleged victim says she walked by the appellant, goes into the store, and makes a purchase. (R.p. 46-47). She states that as she was leaving the store walking back to her care the defendant gets her attention and asks her for a cigarette. (R.p. 49). The alleged victim gives the defendant a cigarette but then claims that the defendant exposed his penis to her. (R.p. 47, 50). There was a video camera recording the incident but there is no evidence on the video camera showing the defendant exposing his penis to the alleged victim. (R.p. 68-81). Nor does the other two men who was supposed to have been talking to the defendant corroborate the alleged victim's statement that she saw the defendant exposing his penis to her. Hpmphries' testimony was completely different than what she told police officers at the time of the incident and the video tape did not corroborate her statements to police. (R.p. 68-81).

Nevertheless the jury found the defendant guilty of indecent exposure. The Court sentenced the defendant to 3 years in prison and a \$3,000.00 fine provided that the defendant serve 18 months and pay a \$100.00 fine and that the rest of the sentence would be suspended and that the defendant be placed on probation for 5 years. (R.p. 155-157). The Court also did not make any specific finding that the circumstances of the case should warrant that the defendant or appellant in this case should be placed on the sexual registry. (R.p. 156). The Court did however repeat the statute but did not make specific findings from the record to indicate as to why the

appellant should be on the sexual registry. (R.p. 156).

After the jury verdict, the Appellant's legal counsel made a motion for a new trial. (R.p. 157).

APPELLANT APPEALS

Argument 1

The Court erred in ordering the Appellant to register as a sex offender where the Court failed to make specific findings on the record as to why the Appellant should be given such a status and/or sentence.

Defense counsel objected to Faison being placed on the sexual registry. The state on the other hand saw it that the defendant be ordered to be placed on the sexual registry.

The Court after considering argument of counsel stated “I find based upon the circumstances of the case that defendant should be required to register pursuant to 23-3-430 on the sex offender registry.”

The appellant asserts that this pronouncement by the Court is not sufficient finding to warrant Faison being placed on the sexual registry. It is unclear whether the Court actually ordered the defendant to be on the sexual registry after making this pronouncement except to say.

Argument 2

The lower court judge erred in not granting a new trial on the basis that there was insufficient corroboration of the alleged victim’s assertion to warrant a conviction by the jury of the appellant for the offense of indecent exposure.

In the case before the bar, neither the video camera nor the man who was at the scene corroborated the alleged victim’s statement that Faison actually exposed his penis to her. Faison did not testify and corroborate this lady’s statement. The video of the parking lot also is devoid of any indication that Faison committed such an act.

The state relied on the video, that the video does not corroborate Ms. Humphries’ position nor the state’s argument. 74-86-88.

Since there is a lack of corroboration for the victim’s statement, the Court should order a new trial and/or reverse the conviction of the defendant.

Argument 3

The Court Erred in not quashing the indictment on the basis that the statute is void for vagueness and the November 20, 2014 Indictment had been dismissed with prejudice and thus the Defendant was subjected to Double Jeopardy.

It is clear, that the State indicted the Appellant twice for the same offense with only difference being that the state claims that the criminal offense occurred on different dates.

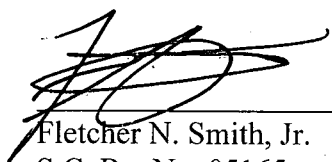
If the state dismissed the first indictment of November 20, 2014, then it could not prosecute the defendant on the second indictment alleging the same facts. The Motion to Quash the Indictment was made before the Jury was sworn and thus it was preserved for review. State v Howell, 220 S.C. 178 (1951). Consequently, the indictment should have been quashed and the case dismissed.

Additionally, the indictment should have been quashed because the statute does not define what a private part is nor does it seem to indicate that the courts can second guess the legislature on this issue. The legislature having failed to adequate a principal part of the statute renders the court with our authority to second guess the legislature. Since private parts is not adequately defined in the statute the indictment should have been quashed as being void for vagueness. State v Sanders, 37 N. C. 53, 245 S.E. 2d 397 (N.C. App. 1978).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reason, the Appellant respectfully requests this criminal case be reversed.

Respectfully submitted



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May 25, 2017