



In the Matter of: Judge Deadra L. Jefferson

Candidate for Re-Election Circuit Court Judge

Response to Complaint of Reverend Monsignor Edward D. Lofton

- 1. The Court's bond docket was scheduled to commence at 1:30 p.m. on July 15, 2024.
- 2. Court commenced at 1:30 p.m. on July 15, 2024 in Courtroom B.
- 3. The July 15, 2024 Bond docket consisted of fourteen (14) cases. (Exhibit 1, July 15, 2024 Bond Docket).

While waiting I began my bond docket and completed the other bond hearings listed on the docket. It would have not been practicable to have the other cases and attorneys waiting in anticipation of changing courtrooms. I had completed the other matters when notified we could move to Courtroom E. As soon as notified we moved courtrooms.

I am at a loss as to why those in attendance were notified to attend at 12:30 p.m. in advance of the hearing. I have to assume Defense counsel gave them those instructions. The attorneys were advised of the necessity to change courtrooms and the delay due to the other proceeding. I cannot account for why those in attendance were not updated with this information.

Mr. DeLustro is indicted on the offenses of Murder (Indictment #: 2024-GS-08-02283) and Kidnapping (Direct Indictment #: 2024-GS-08-02285) alleged to have been committed on March 20, 2024 in the parking lot of the Chick fil A located at 1312 North Main Street, Summerville, SC located in Berkeley County S.C.

4. Upon entering the courtroom, as the court reporter was setting up her equipment, I explained to those in attendance the reasons for the delay in transitioning from one courtroom to another, apologized, explained that the timing of the transition was beyond our control as we could not transfer courtrooms until the previous Judge concluded their proceedings, and advised that we would begin as soon as the court reporter had completed setting up her equipment. I further explained that due to the size limitations of Courtroom B (capacity of 15-20), due to the large number of those attending (approximately 42: 30 for the Defense and 12 for the State-Exhibit 2, Email confirming the anticipated number of attendees) and security protocol the hearing could not have proceeded in the courtroom B. I further explained that we could not start in Courtroom B at 1:30 as planned because the Judge using that courtroom had not concluded their proceedings and that as soon as notified we changed from Courtroom B to Courtroom E. I can only assume this portion of my comments were not captured by the court reporter because she was setting up her equipment.

- 5. I do not wear a blond wig and therefore, did not adjust one. I do not attend to or engage in personal grooming in the Courtroom. I concede it may have been necessary to clean my glasses. However, cleaning one's glasses is not disrespectful or condescending behavior. For anyone who has ever dealt with plastic lenses I am sure they have to do the same multiple times during the course of the day.
- 6. All detainees are placed and seated in the jury boxes of each courtroom. The court does not direct this. Detainees being placed in the jury box is a part of the standard operating procedure and security protocol of the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center and the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. Mr. DeLustro was seated in the jury box by the security staff pursuant to this protocol. Upon entering the courtroom and noticing that Mr. DeLustro was in the jury box I directed that he be placed at counsel table with his attorney. (Exhibit 3, Tr. p. 4, ll. 2-13.)
- 7. The Defense was provided a full opportunity to present their motion. The hearing began at 4:05 p.m. and concluded shortly after 5 p.m. Defense counsel initially spoke from 4:05 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. (Tr. p. 4, l. 4 p. 28, l. 9). Defense counsel was advised that he could have his witnesses speak and that the Court had read their submissions on behalf of Mr. DeLustro. (Tr. p. 26, l. 25 p. 27, l. 15). The State made their presentation for less than 10 minutes (Tr. p. 28, L. 11 p. 34, l. 18). Defense counsel was then given the additional opportunity to speak and present anything further (Tr. p. 34, l. 19). Defense counsel could have presented any additional statements but declined to do so. (Tr. p. 34, l. 19-23). The Court advised the parties that it had to balance the parties competing interests and make sure that all were given an adequate opportunity to present their positions in the time allotted. (Tr. p. 28, l. 14 p. 29, l. 4).
- 8. I advised the parties that the clerk of court's office and the Berkeley County Bar requested that the hearing be concluded by 5:00 p.m. because the Berkeley County Bar had an event scheduled for Courtroom E at 5:00 p.m. I did not have an event scheduled. In spite of their request, I did not eclipse the presentation of either party and in fact gave each an additional opportunity to make any further presentations prior to concluding the hearing. (Tr. p. 16, I. 11-16; p. 34, I. 14-19).
- 9. At the conclusion of the proceedings I advised the parties that I was taking the matter under advisement and that I wanted to reread and rewatch all of the submissions in light of the arguments. (Tr. p. 38, l. 16-20). I anticipated that I would issue an order sometime during the week. That was not a definitive promise. I received a full binder of 3 inches of material from the defense, 2 videos and other submissions. (Exhibit 4, DeLustro Index of Bond Hearing Submissions). I had a full week of matters Tuesday, July 16th through Friday, July 19th that required my attention. The following week of July 22nd I had a full General Sessions docket in Charleston County. After reviewing the matter, as indicated, I rendered a timely decision on July 26, 2024. The order was mailed to Moncks Corner to the Clerk's office for filing on July 26, 2024. The Clerk of Court filed the Order on August 8, 2024. (Exhibit 5, Bond Order dated July 26, 2024). I cannot account for their delay in processing the Order. I am told that there are significant delays statewide being encountered as a result of the USPS. An Amended Bond Order was signed on September

- 16, 2024, pursuant to a Motion for Reconsideration received September 4, 2024. (Exhibit 6, Amended Bond Order). An Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Amend Bond Order and Provide Specific Findings of Fact was signed September 16, 2024 and filed on October 7, 2024. (Exhibit 7, Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Amend Bond Order and Provide Specific Findings of Fact). Any delay in issuing an Order inured to Mr. DeLustro's benefit as it afforded the Court the opportunity to review the submissions and reflect regarding an appropriate decision on the merits of the matter. As a matter of course, Judges are afforded at a minimum a thirty (30) day window to render decisions. Decisions that are thirty (30) days and older are required to be reported to court administration on a Judges matter under advisement reporting which court administration monitors for timely completion.
- 10. At no time during the proceedings did the solicitor, Scarlett Wilson, raise her voice to the Court or opposing counsel. (Exhibit 3, Tr. p. 34, 1. 24-25 through p. 35, 1. 3).
- 11. All parties were treated with courtesy, respect and impartiality during the proceedings as is evinced by the transcript. (Exhibit 3, July 15, 2024 Transcript of the proceedings).
- 12. The Court gave deference and reviewed all materials submitted including videos. In this case there were 2 videos the Court was provided and reviewed in advance of the hearing. (Exhibits 8, Peter Brown eye witness video of the event and Exhibit 9, SLED video of Pilar DeLustro).
- 13. I attempted to retrieve the courtroom video of the proceedings. The video is no longer available. The videos are maintained for a period of thirty (30) days. My request exceeded the thirty (30) day window and as a result the video no longer exists.
- 14. The Defense submitted a voluminous mitigation package to the Court on Thursday, July 11, 2024. Likewise, the State also submitted its materials for the hearing. I reviewed all materials submitted in advance of the hearing. The letters which were submitted by Defense Counsel as part of its mitigation package, reviewed in advance of the hearing, and considered following the hearing are attached: Rev. Monsignor Edward D. Lofton (Exhibit 10), Rev. Rich Robinson (Exhibit 11) and Rev. Raymond Carlo (Exhibit 12).
- 15. Bond hearings are scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. and conclude by 5:00 P.M. with fifteen (15) minutes allotted for each hearing. Had Mr. DeLustro's bond gone first as contemplated his hearing would have been confined to the fifteen-minute time limit. Any delays inured to his benefit as it afforded his hearing a much-expanded time of one (1) hour to be heard. His hearing was afforded more time than any other hearing scheduled for the 15th.
- 16. A media listing concerning this case has been attached to provide some context for the matter. (Exhibit 13, DeLustro Media listing).

Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 100 Broad Street Charleston, SC 29401 843.958.5147

Sworn to me this 5thday of November, 2024

Chanda, C. Shippoud Notary Public of South Carolina

My Commission Expires: July 22, 2033

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Jefferson, Deadra L. Secretary (Chanda C. Sheppard)

From:

Wilson, Scarlett A.

Sent:

Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:28 PM

To:

Joseph Cannarella; Dupree, Leah G.; Jefferson, Deadra L. Law Clerk (Tyra Roberts);

Cc:

Jefferson, Deadra L. Secretary (Chanda C. Sheppard)

Subject:

Morgan Altman; Heather C. Hill; Receptionist Desk; Joseph Kirkpatrick Re: State v. DeLustro

*** EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. ***

Thank you, Joseph. I anticipate 12 members of the Victims family to appear.

SW



Scarlett A. Wilson

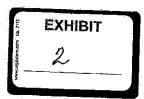
Solicitor

101 Meeting Street, Suite 400

Charleston, SC 29401

0: 843-958-1900 | f; 843-958-1905

e: wilsons@scsolicitor9.org | web: www.scsolicitor9.org



From: Joseph Cannarella < jcannarella@savlaw.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 4:10:28 PM

To: leah.dupree@berkeleycountysc.gov <leah.dupree@berkeleycountysc.gov>; Jefferson, Deadra L. Law Clerk (Matthew Chalfant) < DJeffersonLC@sccourts.org>; Jefferson, Deadra L. Secretary (Chanda C. Sheppard)

<DJeffersonSC@sccourts.org>

Cc: Scarlett Wilson <wilsons@sesolicitor9.org>; Morgan Altman <maltman@savlaw.com>; Heather C. Hill <heather@savlaw.com>; Receptionist Desk <Receptionist@savlaw.com>; Joseph Kirkpatrick <jkirkpatrick@savlaw.com> Subject: State v. DeLustro

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Good afternoon,

I hope everyone has had a great week thus far. This case is scheduled for a bond hearing on Monday, 7/15, at 1:30pm. Solicitor Wilson and I have discussed the likely presence of media as well as a large number of supporters for Mr. DeLustro (30 or more but could be less). Given the number of cases on Monday's docket and out of respect for the court/courthouse, I wanted to make you aware in case advance preparations are necessary. Thank you all for your time. Have a great afternoon.

State of South Carolina County of Berkeley

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

Plaintiff,

۷s.

ANTHONY DELUSTRO,

Defendant.

Court of General Sessions Ninth Judicial Circuit

Case Numbers: 2024-GS-08-02283 2024-GS-08-02285

BOND HEARING

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

July 15, 2024 Moncks Corner, South Carolina

BEFORE:

The Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson

EXHIBIT

APPEARANCES:

MS. SCARLETT WILSON, Winth Circuit Solicitor, for the Plaintiff;

MR. V. JOSEPH CANNARELLA, Attorney at Law, for the Defendant.

> Jamie Bickett Official Court Reporter

1 (The following proceedings were had in open court.) THE COURT: This is the State of South Carolina versus 2 Anthony DeLustro, warrant 2024 ending in 681, indictments 3 4 2024-GS-08-2283 and 2285. A motion to set bond was filed on June 3 of 2024 by Mr. Cannarella, who represents the 5 6 defendant. And I assume you received copies of those, Ms. Wilson? 7 8 MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am. THE COURT: And the defendant appeared before Judge Housand on 4/10 of 2024 on the offense of murder. Bond was 10 11 denied. And what are the other two charges he has pending? 12 Because I don't have any other documents on bond, and I need 13 14 them. MS. WILSON: It's just one other charge, your Honor, 15 attempted kidnapping. That was a direct indictment. 16 17 THE COURT: Okay. That would explain why I don't have any bond paperwork. And so no bond has ever been considered TB 19 or set on that, correct? MS. WILSON: That's correct. And I believe on the 20 murder charge, Judge Housand wouldn't have had 21 22 jurisdiction --23 THE COURT: Exactly. 24 MS. WILSON: -- to set bond at all. THE COURT: Well, they would have still -- you know, I 25

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still would have had paperwork and it would have said no
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      bond.
           So 2024-GS-08-2283, which offense is that?
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           MS. WILSON: 83 is the murder charge.
           THE COURT: And then the 85 is the kidnapping?
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           MS. WILSON: Attempted kidnapping.
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           THE COURT: Attempted kidnapping.
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           MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.
 9.
           THE COURT: And that was the direct indictment?
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           MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.
11
           THE COURT: And the murder has been indicted?
12
          MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am,
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          THE COURT: And on what date was that? Actually, I
     probably have a copy of it.
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15
          No, I don't.
          CLERK OF THE COURT: 5/22,
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          MR. CANNARELLA: May 22.
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          THE COURT: 5/22? Thank you.
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          And that was indicted on 5/22 of 2024.
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          And for the benefit of the parties, the videos that you
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     all have provided to the Court in advance, I have reviewed
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     them prior to our proceedings on today.
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          Mr. Cannarella, this is your motion, However, I'd like
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    some preliminary information from the State.
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          Does the defendant have any record?
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1 MS. WILSON: No, ma'am, 2 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Cannarella, where's your 3 client? MR. CANNARELLA: Judge, he's in the jury box. I didn't 5 know if you --Ġ THE COURT: Oh, yeah. 7 MR. CANNARELLA: -- wanted him at the podium. THE COURT: He can come sit with you. MR. CANNARELLA: Okay. 10 THE COURT: If you all would -- I apologize. I didn't 11 notice that or I would have had him brought over earlier. 1.2 MR. CANNARELLA: Thank you, Judge. 13 THE COURT: You're welcome. 14 MR. CANNARELLA: May it please the Court? 15 THE COURT: Yes, sir. You may proceed. 16 MR. CANNARELLA: Your Honor, I think it's probably best that I -- I'm just going to go through the factors under 17 17-15-30, your Honor --18 19 THE COURT: Yes, sir. MR. CANNARELLA: - just so you can know how to follow 20 21 along with me, 2.2 Judge, this is Mr. Anthony DeLustro. His family history, your Honor, he's 65 years of age. He was born and 23 24 raised in New York in 1965. Judge, he's got a mother and a 25 father, obviously. His father Frank passed away in 1995.

His mother, Judge, is still living at the age of 98. She is actually living up in New York with Mr. DeLustro's older sister.

His brother Frank is a resident of the upstate of South Carolina. They could not be with us today, Judge. He is in New York as we speak taking care of his mother and his sister, both of whom are suffering from medical conditions. And in fact, Judge, they at this time do not — they are not aware of what has happened with Mr. DeLustro because of his mother's age and the fear of what may happen if she were to be made aware of his situation at this time.

Judge, he's a graduate of Calhoun High School in New York. He did several years at St. Joseph's and Farmingdale Tech. After coilege — he did not finish college, but after he got several credits in college, numerous, he was hired at the age of 21 by the NYPD. And Judge, that was around 1980.

Several years after that, he married his first wife Valerie. They had a child by the name of Gina. She's actually a lawyer up in New York, Judge. For a few years, the marriage went well. Eventually they divorced. They separated. The relationship was strained. And Judge, unfortunately, Mr. DeLustro has not had a lot of contact, if any, with his oldest daughter Gina, who is still living in New York.

After that divorce or sometime during the separation

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phase, Judge, Mr. DeLustro met his now current wife, who he's been married to since 19- -- in the 1980s, Judge. They've been married for over two decades. Pilar, she's in the courtroom today behind me.

Judge, when they married, they had two children, one by the name of Kristina. Kristina was the oldest of the two kids that they had together. And Judge, she was born with Down syndrome. The second daughter that they had two years later — er, yeah, two years later was Denise. Denise is here actually in Summerville, where she lives locally since they have moved to South Carolina.

Which brings me to my next point, Judge. In 103 -2003, the family decided to pick up and move to South
Carolina after Mr. Delustro retired from the NYPD. When they
moved to South Carolina, Judge, they bought a home in
Summerville. I asked Mr. Delustro why he chose South
Carolina. He tells me that he chose South Carolina because
he loved the area. That's where his brother lived. His
brother lived in Charleston when he was still an active
immunologist, now retired.

So they came to South Carolina with both of their children, Denise and Kristina. I believe that Kristina was around the age of 15 and Denise was around the age of 12. They moved to Summerville. They got them enrolled in private schooling, Judge. They did everything necessary that they

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needed to as parents to allow those children to have the best life that they possibly could.

Judge, in 2010, when Denise, the youngest child — daughter of Mr. DeLustro and Pilar, when — in 2010 when she was 19, they had Sophia, who is Mr. DeLustro's oldest granddaughter. In 2013, Denise had Mikayla, who is Mr. DeLustro's youngest granddaughter. Judge, at this time period, the whole entire family was living together in Summerville. Mr. DeLustro and his wife took care of the entire family, raised everybody, raised the grandchildren, raised their two daughters, provided for them.

Around 2013, Judge, after Mikayla was born, the youngest granddaughter, Denise decided to move out of the home, I believe somewhat probably at the direction of her father and her mother, to get out on her own. She was in her 20s at that point. Mr. DeLustro bought her a home in Summerville and moved into that home.

You're probably wondering why I'm going through all this, Judge, but it's all going to tie into why we are here today.

In 2018, Judge, there was a collision. Denise was in the car with Mikayla, and she rolled the car. DUI, substance use. Mikayla was rushed to the hospital. There were no injuries, but of course, you can imagine the traumatic event that took place in 2018.

In 2019 -- well, let me back up. Mr. DeLustro hired a DUI lawyer to represent his daughter. He paid for her classes -- alcohol classes. He transported her to work. He transported her to the lawyer. He transported her to the grocery store. All while him and his wife were taking care of the grandchildren and their other daughter Kristina.

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In 2020, Judge, there was a petition made to the family court locally -- I believe in Dorchester County -- for the grandparents to take custody of the two grandchildren. That petition was granted. Joint custody was given, but the grandparents were given physical custody.

At that time Denise had two more children. And as you can imagine, the relationship between Denise and her two parents was extremely strained. Yet Pilar, who is, as I've noted, here today, brought those other two children in and cared for them.

Judge, in 2021, a year or so after COVID hit,

Mr. DeLustro and his daughter Kristina were admitted into ICU
at Roper, diagnosed with COVID. Mr. DeLustro was two doors
down, maybe three doors down the hall. His wife couldn't see
Kristina. She died alone in her hospital bed, Judge, in July
of 2021. And I provided the Court with that obituary.

The family, Judge, ever since Mr. DeLustro was born, they have been devout Catholics. They are devout Catholics to this day. I talked to his brother Frank a good bit about

this, and he tells me that Mr. DeLustro -- Tony -- who I call Tony, Anthony DeLustro -- but Tony fell off the map a little bit when he came to South Carolina with religion.

But he got back involved, Judge. They sent both the grandchildren to Catholic school. They've been there since 4K. Summerville Catholic, 4K and 5K. They were members of St. Theresa before they changed over to St. Joseph's.

While at St. Theresa, the girls -- the grandchildren were baptized. They were confirmed. Pilar's been confirmed. And Judge, I provided to you an annulment letter from a church in New York because Mr. DeLustro is trying to go through the annulment process simply so he can be confirmed through the Catholic church at St. Joseph's.

I know there has been some interviews and some talk from SLED and the State about why he chose the church where I believe his former wife still goes. That's because that was the suggestion of the church here in Summerville. It wasn't for him or by him.

Judge, I want to move into his employment history.

In 1980 he was hired by the NYPD at the age of 21. He graduated the NYPD. He received numerous awards throughout his career. He was cop of the month several times, distinguished duty awards, numerous commendations, photos with the Honorable Andrew Cuomo, who eventually became the governor. I've provided the Court with those photos and

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On 9/11, Judge, he was scheduled to work a 4-12. He got called in before he went to work when the two Twin Towers fell. He was on ground zero there when Building 7 collapsed. He saw it all. He rushed into the buildings. He searched for people. He searched for victims. He saved people. He cleared buildings. And then after that, Judge, he was assigned for months on end to what they called the fresh kill landfill on Staten Island where he sifted for remains for months.

Twenty-three years of honorable service to the NYPD. I know there's been media claims that there had been issues at the NYPD, but Judge, he retired in good standing.

THE GOURT: I don't listen to the media. I don't read it. I don't watch it.

MR. CANNARELLA: Well --

THE COURT: I don't watch the local news for this very reason. No aspersions on them, but I like to come to a case with a fresh mind.

MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: So I don't read newspaper articles and I don't watch any local media reports about any case that could possibly be pending before this Court. So if any such representations have been made, I am clueless because I have not seen nor heard them.

MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Honor, which is why I brought it to your attention.

The last seven years of his service, Judge, he was a sergeant with the NYPD. And I'm not going to disclose on the record today, but he oversaw numerous detectives, several undercovers. He was responsible for millions of dollars in seizures associated with criminal activity in the city of New York. And what I was going to point out earlier, Judge, is that when he retired from the NYPD, he couldn't have retired if he wasn't in good standing.

In 2003 when he moved here, he started the path of seven law enforcement officer jobs, Judge, in South Carolina. And people probably wonder, Why so many jobs? Why four, five, six jobs? Well, if you take a look at the reasons why he left each of those jobs, he couldn't find the right fit, Judge.

He started at Trident Tech in 2003. He was there for several years. He didn't agree with their program and some of the things that he was being told to do, so he wanted to go back on patrol. He went to Summerville in '07. He was there for two years. There are comments about him being an experienced police officer, very good dealing with the public. He left Summerville in '09 looking for more pay.

In 2009 he worked at the College of Charleston Police Department. He was there for several years. He left there

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again because he wanted to go back on the road. He didn't enjoy the environment. He was an NYPD retiree. I can only imagine the difference between the NYPD and a college campus. So in 2011, Judge he went to the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office.

At that time, Tony tells me -- Mr. DeLustro, excuse me, tells me, Judge, that he was winding down. He was tired. He did two years at Dorchester. He didn't work the road. He was in process serving. And in 2013 he retired from law enforcement. He spent probably six or seven years at home taking care of his grandchildren, taking care of his wife, taking care of his daughters.

2020 was when it all changed, Judge, because of the custody issue. He emptied out his entire savings for his daughter before and after the custody battle — I shouldn't say "battle," but the custody issue. He paid for all of her lawyer fees. He paid for his lawyer fees. They paid for all the programs. Pretty much, he was living off the NYPD retirement, Judge, so he needed to go back to work. He did part-time jobs at Dorchester School District 2 and the Citadel.

In 2023, Judge, he went back to the academy. I skipped that part. He came to South Carolina, and he had to graduate the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, obviously, to start his employment here. But he went back at the age of

64. He fought through an injury. He fought through sickness. And myself being a graduate of that academy, Judge, that's pretty difficult at that age.

He remained with Summerville Police Department until April 10 of 2024. His FTO training comments: No bad habits with officer safety; ability to intervene and deescalate disputes; speaks with compassion, politeness; took a mentally ill patient accused of trespass home instead of arresting him; remaining professional through a verbal, abusive, nonphysical situation; experience as an officer and father was obvious when dealing with a runaway; accepting criticisms from those that were much younger than him; over 34 years of experience in law enforcement.

Now, the State's going to say, "Well, yeah. Well, he didn't do it on March 20 of 2023. He was the complete opposite." He tells the State, Judge, that on March 20 of 2024, that that was one of the most dangerous, he felt like, threatening incidents that he'd ever been a part of.

And that moves me to the next point. I was going to go through a procedural history with your Honor, but we've already covered that.

From March 20, 2024, to April 10 of 2024, he remained in the community — in our community without issue. He remained an employee — an officer with the Summerville Police Department. Paid leave. He was attending medical visits

through worker's comp at the direction of Summerville Police Department. He cooperated with SLED on several occasions. He was given legal advice, him and his wife, to go talk to SLED and interview with them. They did so on the 29th of March.

On April 10, your Honor, when he was arrested, they went to his home to look for him. He was on the way to a medical appointment with his lieutenant or sergeant. They called Chief Wright with the Summerville Police Department. He showed up at the Summerville Police Department, was taken into custody.

Judge, I want to briefly touch on the verbiage in the arrest warrant. It perplexes me a little bit. Several things, your Honor, that I'm going to point out that I've reviewed through discovery, through our own three-month investigation, talking to witnesses, a lot of omissions in the arrest warrant that Solicitor Wilson is probably going to read.

The first big omission was the March 29 interview of Mr. DeLustro and his wife, the bone-chilling, extremely emotional — at least I felt that way — interview that Ms. Pilar DeLustro gave to SLED. There's several things she told law enforcement that weren't put in this affidavit, that weren't given to the media.

That when Mr. O'Neal pulled up to the vehicle -- er,

pulled up to their vehicle in his, she told -- it was her opinion that he was extremely angry. He was saying he was going to F her up. He was going to F Mr. DeLustro up. They looked at each other and they wondered, Judge -- and this is the video that I presented to the Court earlier today that you said you had reviewed. They looked at each other and wondered what was going on.

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They rolled down the window. They were told that Mr. DeLustro had hit Mr. O'Neal's car. Mr. DeLustro gets out of the vehicle. So does Mr. O'Neal. It's not really clear who gets out first. It's not clear who gets out first in the arrest warrant. When he gets out of the car, Judge, he's pushed to the ground first.

This is all in Ms. Pilar DeLustro's interview.

He hit his head on the ground. He announced he was a police officer and asked for help. She announced that he was a police officer and asked for help. She says Mr. DeLustro was disoriented and dizzy.

There was an eyewitness that discusses Mr. DeLustro's conduct. That eyewitness tells Agent Kelly, to my left, that Mr. DeLustro jumped in the vehicle as it pulled away. That's not true. The video that Solicitor Wilson gave you today, over 30 seconds you can see Mr. DeLustro in the vehicle.

THE COURT: I don't mean to interrupt you, but this Court is not here to determine what happened on that day.

MR. CANNARELLA: I understand.

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THE COURT: My only objective, pursuant to the statute, or the appropriate scope of review is risk of flight, danger to the community. This Court does not act as the finder of fact. And I'm not trying to eclipse your argument, so please don't interpret it that way. But I don't want there to be any misapprehension that somehow this Court is going to make some factual finding about what happened or didn't bappen.

I don't need the video annotated either. It speaks for itself. It's self-authenticating.

We have a limited amount of time for which to dispose of this motion, and I do not want the State to feel rushed in their presentation. So I would ask, to the extent that you can annotate and sort of come to some — this courtroom has to be used at 5:00 for another purpose, and I — so we're going to have to —

MR. CANNARELLA: Judge, I appreciate that. And I understand that.

THE COURT: And I don't want you to think that I'm being pejorative in any sense. I'm not. But I have to weigh and give everybody adequate time for presentation --

MR. CANNARELLA: I understand that, Judge.

THE COURT: -- of their position.

MR. CANNARELLA: I'm not taking an argumentative position. I'm just pointing out facts that --

THE COURT: I understand that. But --

MR. CANNARELLA: -- may or may not --

THE COURT: But I don't want there to be some misapprehension that this Court makes findings of fact on a bond hearing. I don't, nor am I going to try to sift out what happened that day. I was not there, nor is that the Court's prerogative to do that. That's what trials are for, or guilty pleas, whichever one -- er, whichever direction this goes. But my only consideration is what's in the statute, and that's all I'm going to consider.

MR. CANNARELLA: So your Honor, you do not want to entertain any factual circumstances of --

THE COURT: That's not what I said. I said you can argue whatever you'd like, but I don't want you to be under -- or your client to be under the impression that this Court is the finder of fact at a bond hearing.

MR. CANNARELLA: I -- Judge --

THE COURT: That's not the purpose of a bond hearing.

MR. CANNARELLA: With all due respect, your Honor, I have explained that to him. And again, I will move on, but I was just pointing out --

THE COURT: And I just need you to be mindful of time. You started at 4:05, and it is now 4:32. And I need to have the State -- give them adequate time for their argument. And we need to -- we're going to have to be out of this courtroom

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           MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Aogor.
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           Well, Judge, I think it's important for your Honor to
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      know that obviously --
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           THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry. I was wrong. I think 5:00
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      is - yeah. They have an event scheduled at 5:30.
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           MR. CANNARELLA: All right.
           THE COURT: And I need to give them time to set up and
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     do as they need to.
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          MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Honor. Well, I'll skip to --
          THE COURT: And everything you submitted I've read, the
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     entire notebook.
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          MR. CANNARELLA: All right, Judge. Well, I will run
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     through his --
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          THE COURT: I think that if people, you know, go to the
     trouble of creating something for me to read, I think the
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     least I can do is read it.
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          MR. CANNARELLA: I appreciate that, Judge. Thank you.
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          THE COURT: Mm-hmm.
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          MR. CANNARELLA: Judge, I'm going to skip to the
     evaluation report -- I'm sure you've read it -- by Dr. Susan
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     Knight. And the reason why I'm going to skip to that is
    because she's reviewed everything that I was going to tell
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    you earlier.
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          THE COURT: And while we're on that point, I assume you
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want me to give that notebook to the clerk's office so they can make it a part of your client's file? Or do you not?

MR. CANNARELLA: I do not, Judge. I think that there's some information in there -- names and children -- that I do not want to be a part of the record.

THE COURT: Okay. So if there's some things in that notebook that you want made a part of the record, then you need to file those. But anything you don't want, then I will just — what I'll do is I'll just maintain the notebook intact. But if you want anything made a part of your client's file, then you need to file those documents.

MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Honor.

Judge, while he's been in jail for three and a half months, I'm assuming -- your Honor said that you reviewed the packet, so you've seen all the health issues that we -- in fact, I believe you signed off on a lot of the transport orders.

THE COURT: Mm-hmm.

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MR. CANNARELIA: Judge, it's been very difficult medically for him. He's still suffering from medical injuries. It's been very difficult for counsel. I've spent a lot of my time trying to navigate getting him to see doctors and medical attention than I have been able to focus on the substantive issues of his case.

Part of those transports, Judge, is Dr. Susan Knight on

May 1 of 2024. We had him forensically evaluated by Dr. Susan Knight for purposes of risk, Judge, solely. Because it's clear he's not a flight risk. There's ample amounts of evidence in this courtroom that was submitted to the Court and to your Honor that does not show that he's a risk of flight.

But for purposes of risk and because of the magnitude of his situation, we had him evaluated by Dr. Knight. Several tests were done. Several interviews were done. Interviewed family members, Judge. And I won't go through all of this if you said that you read the report, and I would like to make that a part of the record.

THE COURT: You want his report to be made a part of his court file? If I put it in the record, it becomes a Court's exhibit.

MR. CANNARELLA: Well, I'm trying to speed through this, Judge, and I don't want to misstep. So I don't want to hold the courtroom up, but your Honor said --

THE COURT: The benefit of argument is for the Court. I don't think -- is there a direct appeal from a bond hearing?

I'm not aware. I guess you could.

MR. CANNARELLA: There is not.

THE COURT: But if you want it to be considered, then you have to make it a part -- you have to put it in his file. Exhibits become court exhibits. They go into an evidence

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room. They're not readily available for any other purpose.

MR. CANNARELEA: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: So if you want anything in his file for consideration, then you'll need to file it so that the clerk's office can have it a part of his file.

MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Yeah, anything submitted to me is solely for my review. I don't file things on behalf of counsel.

MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Honor.

Judge, Dr. Susan Knight interviewed Mr. and Mrs. DeLustro, interviewed the brother Frank, the former counselor Lucinda Tyo. She did not interview the mother and the sister simply because of their health conditions.

Judge, the crux of the testing was the actual testing. She did review most of — all of his employment records, all of his medical records, all of what we had on this case thus far. She did psychological testing and violent risk assessment measures; personality assessments, two of them; violent risk assessment; anger expression inventory; trauma symptom test.

And let me back up, Judge. He was forensically evaluated prior to his hiring in 2023 with the Summerville Police Department, who cleared him for duty. Dr. Knight read that report.

The violent risk assessment - which I believe

correlates with the statute of being whether or not he's an unreasonable risk to the community -- his behavior was reactive, not predatory; 9/11 trauma present but of low relevance; PTSD from 9/11, symptoms have been resolved with treatment. Dr. Knight interviewed his longtime family counselor Lucinda Tyo. I believe I mentioned that earlier.

Ms. Tyo said that he hasn't needed treatment for PTSD in over ten years.

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There are reports of anxiety, but it doesn't rise to the level of a normal diagnosis. No evidence of substance abuse. No pattern or history of violent attitudes. No pattern or history of antisocial behavior, criminal activity, employment instability, relationship instability. Clinical: did not flag for any cognitive issues whatsoever. Four out of the 20 risk factors were present.

It's her finding that he's a low risk for future violence within the community if released. And that's on page 10 of that report.

He understands the potential conditions that may be imposed if granted bond. He understands consequences for violating those conditions. Very strong family and church support. Represents a low risk to the community and he can be safely managed.

She makes recommendations. He should continue counseling with Lucinda Tyo. Remove all firearms from the

home. And Judge, we've already done that. There's a letter provided to the Court. A family friend removed every single firearm from that home.

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She recommends a neurological evaluation, which is just one more situation, Judge, that I've got to get him to a neurologist.

Judge, before I get into -- well, I will touch on his finances, Judge. They're not rich, but -- and they're not broke, but their finances are low. Potential out-of-pocket costs for the medical bills incurred thus far, Judge, are \$70,000 -- upwards of 70,000. Current and future legal fees, unforeseen expenses. They're going to be living off of his NYPD retirement and the small pension that he gets from South Carolina if he's released. And social security.

Before I get into the character letters, Judge, and wrap it up with people who are here in support of him, I do want to offer my sincere condolences to the O'Neal family. I know there was -- again, your Honor may not want to hear this, but there was media attention in how he acted during --

THE COURT: I didn't say I didn't want to hear it. I didn't want there to be any impression that somehow any decision I make is colored by media coverage.

MR. CANNAKELLA: Understood.

THE COURT: I read the paper every day. I just skip over articles that have anything to do with anything that

could come before the Court. I think that the Court, at a bare minimum, should come to any case with no preconceptions and no information about a case before hearing it. And so I — and I may watch local news, but I don't watch any media reports about anything that could remotely come before the Court.

MR. CANNARELLA: I understand, Judge.

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Well, there were reports of Mr. DeLustro and how he acted at the magistrate bond hearing and he was self-serving.

Well, Judge --

THE COURT: If it gives you any comfort, I have no clue.

I've never watched, seen it, or heard about it.

MR. CANNARELLA: Well, I will tell you, Judge, that you put anybody in that position, regardless of their background, you know, you don't know how you'd think or how you would act. And I've had long discussions with Mr. DeLustro, his family. There are -- his father from the church is here. There is a pastor here. There's another father from the church here, Monsignor Lofton.

Judge, just because what happened happened and just because he could potentially be guilty or not guilty doesn't mean that we can't show empathy. And it's hard for somebody in his situation to understand that. He was afraid of what to say. He was afraid of what could be used against him.

So I'm here today on behalf of him, on behalf of his

family, on behalf of the Savage Law Firm, that we are extremely saddened and sorry for the O'Neal family's loss. He is sympathetic, Judge. He understands what has happened.

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Judge, before the Court that I presented to you today -or before today are several character letters, 19 or more,
from his wife, his brother, his grandchildren, church
members, neighbors, former NYPD officers, crime scene
detectives, local county employees and administrators, past
and current local city sheriffs and state law enforcement
officers, CEOs and vice presidents of six manufacturing
plants, former military, retired pastors, priests, educators,
engineers, police officers.

And there's some things that have stuck out to me,
Judge. And I'll start with the granddaughters. Extremely
obviously saddened by this event. They say that granddad
gave them — showed them the symbol of Lady Justice and
explained to them that it resembles fairness and the power of
justice. He's a father figure. He gave up everything to
raise them. He went to their class in 2023 and talked about
9/11. They want their grandpa home, Judge.

The executive director and senior chaplain of Coastal Crisis Chaplains served parishes for ten years as a Methodist minister and was a police officer for the city of Charleston. He writes that he has dedicated his life to public service, caring for the community for over 35 years, deeply rooted in

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protecting his community, a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. He instilled integrity, selflessness, and generosity in interactions with his wife and granddaughters. Heart and character are rooted in his family and faith. It's an honor to call him a friend.

A retired officer from Trident Tech: professionally competent, authentic, compassionate, kind, inclusive, and generous. Stood by her as she stood up for human rights and those that denounced her preferences. "I did then and I donow a man most would love to call a friend and mentor."

Judge, there are several other things that stick out pretty much that are summed up by everything that I've just said. He's a hardworking individual, sterling reputation as a supervisor and held high in regard at the NYPD. And that's from somebody that wasn't even working with him at the NYPD.

Former sheriff's office deputy, whose wife's still in law enforcement locally: No doubt in my mind if he is released, he will meet any request of the Court, would not be a flight risk, and would not be a danger to the community he served for over a decade,

Judge, behind me there are 22-plus supporters, community members. I want to sincerely thank all of them for being here today. There are several, Judge, that want to say something on behalf of Mr. DeLustro.

THE COURT: In the interest of time, I don't think I'm

going to be able to accommodate that. Didn't they write 1 2 letters? 3 MR. CANNARELLA: All three of them did, Judge. 4 THE COURT: We started at 4:05. It's now 4:50. That 5 leaves --6 MR. CANNARELLA: Reverend Raymond Carlo --7 THE COURT: That leaves the State ten minutes to present their case. So did the individuals that are present that 8. 9 wanted to speak, did they provide the Court with letters in support of Mr. DeLustro? 10 11 MR. CANNARELLA: They did, Judge. May I say their 12 names? 13 THE COURT: I've read them all. I mean, I -- if you want to you can. I won't stop you from doing that. 14 15 MR. CANNARELLA: No. That's all right, Judge. 16 In closing, this is a traumatic event. He's not an unreasonable danger to the community. He's had a 17 professional medical evaluation that says so. There's no 18 19 evidence whatsoever that there is flight risk, but for what the State -- er, excuse me, back to reasonable danger, what 20 21 the State's going to allege happened. 22 But as your Honor said, this is a not a courtroom. 23 We're not presenting anything in front of a trier of fact. 24 He's not a flight risk. There's no evidence whatsoever of

that, Judge. We request a reasonable surety bond. We

1 understand the Court, if it does grant bond, it's going to 2 put him on GPS and house arrest likely. We don't oppose any 3 conditions the Court has. 4 Judge, I would submit to the Court that if he is given a 5 bond, those conditions that Dr. Knight put in place be part of that bond. I think that those are reasonable and 6 7 warranted and necessary. 8 That's all. Thank you. THE COURT: You're welcome. 10 Ms. Wilson? 11 MS. WILSON: Thank you, your Honor. 12 THE COURT: You're welcome, 13 MS. WILSON: I will try to be brief. I know --14 THE COURT: I don't want you to feel rushed. And I -you know, it's a delicate balance that the Court has to 15 16 strike. I don't -- I never want anyone to feel like they 17 have not had a full opportunity to be heard, but I still have 18 to balance those competing interests and make sure that you 19 have adequate time to present your position as well. So I 20 don't want you to feel rushed. Mr. Cannarella has had -- I'm 21 not good -- y'all know I'm not good at math -- 45 minutes. MS. WILSON: I won't be long. 22 23 THE COURT: Is that about it, give or take? MS. WILSON: I won't be long, your Honor. 24 2.5 THE COURT: So if you -- but I want you to make a full

presentation. I don't want you to feel like --

MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am, your Honor. Thank you very much.

THE COURT: You're welcome.

MS. WILSON: Before I get started, I just want to let the Court know who is here for Michael O'Neal, the victim in this case. His parents are here. His brother, sister-in-law, his sister, some friends, his girlfriend of quite some time, they're seated here in the courtroom. I have had occasion to meet most of them over the past few months. I can tell you they have been extremely patient. They have been extremely cooperative. They have been ideal to work with and to let us do our jobs.

They, I don't believe, intend to address the Court, but they wanted you to know they were here. I explained to them that this is not your first trip and that I didn't think it was necessary for them to speak out to you, that you're going to make your decisions based on danger to the community and flight risk and not necessarily victim impact. They understand that.

They are a law enforcement family. Mr. O'Neal, his father and grandfather were both in law enforcement. And there may have been some other family members, too, in law enforcement, so they understand this process more than many. And they have, as I've said, been extremely patient.

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Judge, I had intended to read you the warrant because it is very thorough. I'm not going to do that because it was in Mr. Cannarella's materials at 1B.

THE COURT: Mm-hmm.

MS. WILSON: So you have a copy of it to review. It does give a summary of the witness testimony and what we expect that it will be. I certainly understand this is not a trial. It's not time for us to try this case. I do, however, think it's important for the Court to note what the behavior was on that day.

It is clear that the defendant has great family and community support. We don't question that at all. We have not been able to have a full investigation of his New York career. And frankly, I don't know how relevant that's going to be since it was so remote in time. But that is something that SLED is continuing to look into. It's been a little difficult getting records, so I can't say whether or not his career has been stellar.

What I can say is that there — you probably noticed in the materials that Mr. Cannarella provided that there — one employer noted that he had a noticeable temper. And it's my experience that for government agencies and people working in government to put those sorts of things in an evaluation, there must have been something that stood out.

Throughout the records there are notes of the

defendant's anxiety. There are notes of his feeling overwhelmed. And it's understandable based on the stress that he has been through not only with his service with the police department, not only with 9/11, but with losing a child, which we cannot imagine, with going through custody issues with children. I mean, it is a lot of stress. Plus, it's hard being a cop. It's hard to be in law enforcement.

But having anxiety, having a temper that is noted, having notes from the evaluations of impulsivity and the condern about guns are red flags that give us concern. We are concerned that the defendant is a flight risk. We are concerned that he is a danger to the community. There have been times, as you saw in the reports, that there were concerns of suicide, which gives me pause and concerns that someone who could be suicidal could be homicidal as well.

These are serious allegations. It is a bleak time for the defendant.

And I think it's important for you to note again in the warrant some of the witness statements at what they observed and what is -- I don't want to say it's unique, but we don't always have situations where we have independent witnesses of what's going on. You know, this isn't two families arguing. This isn't a family reunion where something went bad. This isn't a domestic situation.

But the witnesses in this case, your Honor, cover all

ages -- you know, adult ages from, you know, in the 20s to in the 60s. Males, females, blacks, whites, Hispanics. All social backgrounds were people that were interviewed by law enforcement who gave their assessment of what they saw. And what they saw was a man who was unhinged. And that wasn't Michael O'Neal. And that gives us great concern about his danger to the community.

There's been some talk about whether or not the victim in this case -- and I don't believe Mr. Cannarella is trying to victim shame or anything like that, but this notion that the defendant presented himself as a law enforcement officer and that Mr. O'Neal didn't comply is simply false.

The way this went down was there was an argument. It became physical. We believe we will be able to show that the defendant instigated the entire thing. But what is important to note is that it wasn't until mid argument, mid struggle in this scrap that there was any mention of the defendant being a law enforcement officer.

And you can imagine the victim, Michael O'Neal, under the stress and strain of being in this argument, of being attacked by this man or fighting with this man that he doesn't want to fight with. Everyone says Michael O'Neal is trying to leave. Everyone says that it was like he didn't want to do this. "Do you really want to do this? Is this what we're going to do?" These were the type things that

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Michael O'Neal is initially saying. He knew that he was younger. He knew that he was bigger. He didn't want to engage with the older man. It was when he got kicked in the crotch several times that things escalated.

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But those are things that I think is important. And it has been a grave concern again that the witnesses noted that this defendant seemed out of control so much so that one witness, who was a bouncer, who said he was trained to break up fights, that he was trained to always go to the aggressor, the primary aggressor, he went to Mr. DeLustro to try to subdue him. And when DeLustro was talking about being a cop, about being law enforcement, do you know what that witness says? He says, "If you're a cop, act like a cop."

The witnesses out there uniformly were not sure whether or not this man was a law enforcement officer because of the way he acted. That impulsivity, that anxiety, that stress, that behavior on the scene gives us concern about the defendant being released to bail.

The other thing that I should add, although he certainly was a law enforcement officer, the way he conducted himself violated Summerville's rules. Rule 5.04, which is in the discovery materials that was provided to us by Summerville, says that an off-duty officer should not attempt to make an arrest for something that he personally has been involved with unless there were exigent circumstances. There were

There was no evidence that Michael O'Neal was armed. none. There was no evidence that he was a danger to the fest of the community,

They had multiple eyewitnesses. They saw that there were multiple people filming. They certainly could have a license plate. If there needed to be some sort of detention of Michael O'Neal or later arrest of Michael O'Neal, a call to the police, an easy stop by someone who was on duty, someone who was either in a marked car or in uniform so that Michael O'Neal would know that, in fact, they really were law. enforcement, that was easily available to the defendant and a path that he chose not to take. And that's why we're here today.

I don't have anything else to add. Again, I don't believe the family wishes to address the Court. Beg the Court's indulgence,

THE COURT: Mm-hmm.

MS. WILSON: Your Honor, that's all we have.

THE COURT: Anything further from the defense?

MR. CANNARELLA: Judge, I want to make note briefly -and I didn't touch on this -- your Honor has Mr. O'Neal's criminal history in the packet, prior arrests for resisting arrest, a ---

MS. WILSON: Judge, that's simply not relevant.

MR. CANNARELLA: A felony conviction for --

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MS. WILSON: We don't need to do --
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           MR. CANNARELLA: -- resisting arrest.
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           MS. WILSON: -- victim shaming here.
           MR. CANNARELLA: And a firearm offense.
           THE COURT: This has nothing to do -- yeah. If he files
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     a stand your ground or he files some self-defense --
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           MS. WILSON: They didn't know each other.
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          THE COURT: But it's not -- it would have to have been
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     in your client's knowledge to have colored his perceptions
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     and his reactions.
      MR. CANNARELLA: Yes, your Honor.
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        THE COURT: It's not relevant.
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          MR. CANNARELLA: I just wanted --
          THE COURT: And I'm not going to engage in any type of
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     victim shaming.
          MR. CAMMARELLA: Yes, your Honor. I'm not, and I don't
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     want that to be perceived that way.
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          THE COURT: The only time it would be relevant on a
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     stand your ground or what we commonly refer to as the Castle
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     Doctrine -- which of course now is extended to vehicles and
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     some other areas -- or for it to be relevant for
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     self-defense, your client would have had to have been
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     possessed of that knowledge and it would have had to have
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     colored his judgment on that occasion.
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          There's no indication that he knew of that, nor should
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it be appropriate for the Court to consider. At least, I've told you that it's not this Court's posture on a bond hearing to resolve any factual disputes in this case. The Court's not the finder of fact. It's not a trial.

MR. CANNARELLA: Thank you, your Honor. I just wanted again -- I will wrap up. I just wanted to ask if you were aware that that was in the packet. Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: But it's not appropriate for me to consider.

MS. WILSON: Judge, let me just add one other thing —

THE COURT: Sure. Yes, ma'am.

MS. WILSON: -- that I just realized I didn't go over.

And again, I know this isn't the trial. But I don't see this as a self-defense case because what Mr. DeLustro told SLED was that he went to that car to stop Michael O'Neal from leaving. To stop him from leaving. Witnesses at the scene report that he told Michael O'Neal that if he left he was going to shoot him. And that, again, is a concern.

I also would add that yes, Mr. DeLustro's wife was present at the scene. And what goes to this whole notion that there was some sort of fear is that in the video that you saw -- she's in dark clothing -- she's grabbing Michael O'Neal by the belt. She has him.

And then as you see the victim trying to leave -- he just wants to get out of there. And that's what everybody says. He just wanted to leave. He goes and gets in his car.

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And the evidence that will show that there was no fear is that Ms. DeLustro then goes to the car and tries to confront him while he's in the driver's seat before the defendant even gets to the car. She wasn't afraid of him. They weren't afraid of him.

THE COURT: I'm just -- I just made a general observation that while it would not be relevant in this proceeding, that it may well be relevant -- he could file a stand your ground.

MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: Yeah. And then we'd have to have a hearing on it and we'd see how it shook out. Of course, one of the elements of self-defense is not -- you know, you're not supposed to pursue the danger. Although, in self-defense you have no duty to retreat.

But we're getting into the weeds. I just wanted to make the general observation that while it may not be relevant for this proceeding, that if he were to pursue some type of stand your ground defense or the common law self-defense, that it could be relevant in that context.

MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: But it certainly -- there's been no indication. And as we all know, in the context of that law, simply having a criminal history, simply being impaired or intoxicated -- you know, all those relevant -- those panoply

1 of facts you would consider -- you know, weight, size, 2 beight, all of those things that you look at -- it would firmly have to be within the defendant's consciousness. 3 Ιt 4 would have to be something that would have affected an 5 ordinary person of -- er, a reasonable person of ordinary firmness and courage. You have to know these things. It's 7 not something that generally -- I think we all know the case 8 law. MS. WILSON: Yes, ma'am. 10 THE COURT: Yeah. I just wanted to make that general 11 observation so that he understood he wasn't precluded in some context from presenting it, but certainly it's not 12 13. appropriate for this context. Okay. Anything else from the State? 14 15 MS. WILSON: No, ma'am. 16

THE COURT: All right. I'll take the matter under advisement. I'd like to reread everything and rewatch everything in light of the context of everyone's arguments. And I'll issue an order sometime this week, Probably won't be till Friday.

MS. WILSON: Thank you so much.

MR. CANNARELLA: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: You're welcome. Thank you all. Have a good afternoon.

(End of proceedings.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

State of South Carolina County of Berkeley

I, Jamie L. Bickett, an Official Court Reporter for the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete

Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and evidence introduced in the hearing of the captioned case in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, the Court of General Sessions for Berkeley County, South Carolina.

Official Court Reporter

Dated this 10th day of August, 2024.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF BERKELEY	IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSION FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WARRANT NUMBER: 2024A08102000 INDICTMENT NUMBERS: 2024-GS-02024-GS	r 681 08-02283
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,		
Plaintiff,		
-versus-		\$
ANTHONY DELUSTRO,		
Defendant.		

PACKAGE FOR BOND HEARING

Before the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson Berkeley County General Sessions Court 300-B California Avenue, Moncks Corner, SC 29461 Monday, July 15, 2024; 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SAVAGE LAW FIRM 15 Prioleau Street Charleston, SC/29401 Telephone (843) 720-7470

RV

V. JOSEKH CANNARELLA SC Bar Number: 104613 Email: jeannarella@saylaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

Charleston, South Carolina

July 12, 2024

EXHIBIT

STATE V. ANTHONY DELUSTRO

INDEX FOR MOTION HEARING FOR BOND

Before the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson Berkeley County General Sessions Court 300-B California Avenue, Moncks Corner, SC 29461 Monday, July 15, 2024; 1:30 p.m.

I. MOTION/CHARGING AND BOND DOCUMENTS

Α.	Berkeley County Magistrate Bond Documents (2 pages)	04/10/2024
	1. S.C. Code §22-5-510. Magistrate's Power to Set Bail	
В.	Arrest Warrant Number 2024A0810200681 and Affidavit for the charge of Murder (3 pages)	04/10/2024
C.	Indictment Number 2024-GS-08-02283 for Murder (2 pages)	05/22/2024
	1, S.C. Code §16-03-0010. Murder	
Ď.	Indistment Number 2024-GS-08-02285 for Attempted Kidnapping (2 pages)	05/22/2024
	1. S.C. Code §16-3-190 and 16-1-80. Attempted Kidnapping	
E.	Motion for Bond Hearing (16 pages)	06/03/2024
	 SC Code Section 17-15-30 for Matters to be Considered in Determining Conditions of Release 	٠.
	2. SC Code Section 17-15-35 for Electronic Monitoring Condition of Bond	

II. ANTHONY DELUSTRO

A.	Biographical Information (3 pages)	Undated
В.	Family Photos (7 pages)	Undated
C.	Final Order Approving Custody (8 pages)	02/10/2020
D.	Obituary for Kristina DeLustro (1 page)	07/12/2021
E.	Proof of Presence at 9/11 Disaster Site, World Trade Center Health Medical Monitoring, & Roper St. Francis Medical History (8 pages)	Undated
F.	Annulment Letter from Catholic Diocese (1 page)	04/22/2024
G.	Letter from Summerville Catholic School regarding advanced course recommendation for Sophia DeLustro	05/21/2024
H.	Criminal History and SCDMV Report (3 pages)	04/29/2024
Ļ.	Employment History:	
	1. Resume (2 pages)	Undated
	2. NYPD Employment	1980-2003
	a. NYPD Job Description from SCCJA file (1 page)	Undated
	b. NYPD Medical History (2 pages)	05/01/1981- 03/15/1994
	c. Good Standing Retirement Reports & Criminal Justice Academy Inquiry (5 pages)	12/23/2002- 09/12/2003
	3. Trident Technical College Public Safety Employment Record (2 pages)	01/02/2008
	4. Summerville Police Department Employment Record (21 pages)	11/25/2009
	5. College of Charleston Public Safety Employment Record (3 pages)	06/14/2011
	6. Dorchester County Sheriff's Office Employment Record (3 pages)	09/11/2013

	7. Dorchester District Two Employment Record (2 pages)	10/21/2019
	8. The Citadel Public Safety Employment Record (2 pages)	01/04/2023
J.	Law Enforcement Accolades:	
	 Police Benevolent Association Cop of the Month Award for August 1993 (1 page) 	Undated
	Photo of Anthony DeLustro with Governor Cuomo receiving law enforcement award (1 page)	Undated
	3. NYPD Certificate for Distinguished Duty (1 page)	09/30/1993
	4. Letter from Sergeants Benevolent Association regarding Distinguished Duty Medal (1 page)	11/15/1994
	5. NYPD Medals Report & Commendation List (2 pages)	Undated
K.	<u>Financials</u>	
	 NYPD Retirement Income for Anthony DeLustro (1 page) 	Undated
	 Social Security Income for Anthony DeLustro (2 pages) 	Undated
	3. Social Security Income for Pilar DeLustro (1 page)	Undated

HI. EVALUATION AND TREATMENT

A. Lucinda Tyo, LISW AP/CP P.O. Box 1941 Summerville, SC 29484 Phone: 843-478-8962

Email: lucindatyo@gmail.com

1. Letter regarding therapy (1 page)

06/05/2024

B. Susan C. Knight, Ph.D., ABPP Applied Psychological Services, LLC 1941 Savage Rd., Ste. 400A Charleston, SC 29407 Phone: 843-637-5729

Email: <u>knight@apforensic.com</u> *Curriculum Vitae (II pages)

1. Evaluation Report (11 pages)

05/27/2024

2. Email from Dr. Knight regarding neurological evaluation (1 page)

07/08/2024

C. Letter from Eric and Shannon Renfro regarding confiscation and securement of Anthony DeLustro's firearms and ammunition (1 page) 06/04/2024

IV. INCIDENT DOCUMENTS - MARCH 20, 2024

Á.	Incident Reports:	•
	 Excerpt from Summerville Police Department Supplemental Report re. Witness Statement (3 pages) 	03/20/2024
	 Excerpt from Summerville Police Department Supplemental Report re. Witness Statement (1 page) 	03/20/2024
·	 Excerpt from Dorchester County Sheriff's Office Supplemental Report re. Witness Statement (1 page) 	03/25/2024
B.	Anthony DeLustro:	
	1. DOI Trace Firearms Report (I page)	04/01/2024
	2. Concealed Weapons Permit (2 pages)	08/26/2020
	 Photos of Anthony DeLustro's injuries at Trident Hospital (15 pages) 	03/20/2024
	4. Excerpt from Trident Medical Records (5 pages)	03/20/2024
	5. Excerpt from Concentra Medical Records (2 pages)	03/21/2024
	6. Excerpt from Smile Dentistry Records (1 page)	03/27/2024
	 Excerpt from Roper St. Francis Medical Records (2 pages) 	04/02/2024
	 Excerpt from Roper St. Francis Medical Records (5 pages) 	04/09/2024
	 Al Cannon Detention Center Medical Records (12 pages) 	04/10/2024- 06/01/2024
	10. Photos of injuries at Al Cannon Detention Center (6 pages)	04/16/2024
	11. Summerville Police Department Separation Notice (3 pages)	04/19/2024

	12. Photo of injuries at Al Cannon Detention Center (1 page)	06/07/2024
	13. Filed Transport Order for Urology Appointment (2 pages)	06/17/2024
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	 Filed Transport Order for Wound Care Appointment (2 pages) 	06/20/2024
	a. Wound Care Visit Summary (8 pages)	06/24/2024
	15. Filed Transport Order for Orthopedic Appointment (2 pages)	06/28/2024
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	16. Medical Bills (10 pages) *Possible Out of Pocket Pay: \$80,271.65	Undated
C.	Michael O'Neal:	
	1. Toxicology Report (1 page)	04/01/2024
	2. Excerpt of Autopsy Report (3 pages)	04/05/2024
	3. Criminal History Report (9 pages)	03/29/2024
	4. SLED Forensic Firearm Test Report (1 page)	04/01/2024
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V. CHARACTER LETTERS

1. Pilar DeLustro

105 Abigale Lane

Summerville, SC 29483

Email: <u>cprd+0@aol.com</u> Phone: 843-323-1106

*Married Anthony in 1986; married for 38 years. Caretaker

for their two granddaughters.

2. Sophia DeLustro

105 Abigale Lane

Summerville, SC 29483

*8th grade student at Summerville Catholic School. Lives with

her grandparents.

3. Mikayla Brown

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Summerville, SC 29483

*5th grade student at Summerville Catholic School. Lives with

her grandparents,

4. Frank DeLustro

121 Tall Ridge Trail

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*Retired Microbiologist.

5. Rev. Raymond J. Carlo

28 Sumter Avenue

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Phone: 843-655-1248

*Pastor at Anthony's church, Saint John the Beloved

Catholic Church. Has known Anthony for five years.

6. Anthony Di Tomasso

273 Gilling Road

Seaford, NY 11783

Phone: 516-537-6051

Email: tonyd4995@gmail.com

*Retired New York City Crime Scene Detective.

Has known Anthony since 1986.

Spouse

Granddaughter

Granddaughter

Brother

Pastor/Friend

Former Co-Worker

7. Shannon Gregg

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Email: shannongreggidegmail.com

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8. Robert Hensley

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*Retired, corporate accounting management. Has been Anthony's

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10. Mary Horne

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Phone: 910-998-0338

*Minister and former law enforcement. Worked with Anthony

as a public safety officer at Trident Technical College

11. Martha Houston

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Email: marthaliouston4@gmail.com

Retired Teacher and Counselor. Has been Anthony's neighbor for

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Phone: 843-812-3996

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for eight years.

Neighbor

Friend

Neighbor

Former Co-Worker

Neighbor

Neighbor

13. Michael and Nikie Humanitzki

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*Worked with Anthony at the Dorchester County Sherrif's Office.

Friends for over 10 years.

14. Tom Joyce

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*Director of Business Development for LexisNexis.

Former NYPD Officer. Has known Anthony for over 30 years.

15. Reverend Monsignor Edward Lofton

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Email: confessor@mindspring.com

*Former military. Retired priest. Has known Anthony for

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*Manages non-profit organizations. Attends church with Anthony.

Children attend school with Anthony's Grandchildren.

18. Chaplain Rich Robinson

Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy

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North Charleston, SC 29406

Email: tich@coastalerisischaplain.org

Phone: 843-724-1212

*Executive Director and senior chaplain of the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy.

Friends

Friend

•

Pastor/Friend

Friend

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Chaplain

19. Joseph Valentino 203 President Circle Summerville, SC 29483

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*38 attendees

*Final list to be distributed in person on Monday, July 15, 2024

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Phone: 843-821-2621

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VI. BOND HEARING ATTENDEES

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	ATU:
STA	ATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS UNTY OF BERKELEY 24 103 -3 P. FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CO	UNTY OF BERKELEY 26 110 112 FOR THE WINTH TIPICIAL CITY
	24 103 -3 FIGS THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Stat	e of South Carolina, Warrant #(s): 2024A0810200681
	BERNIN VI VIII
) Indictment #(s): 2024-GS-08-02283
Antl	nony Delustro
2.14101	na de la companya de
	Defendant.) ORDER ON BOND
	THIS MATTER and I for
Redi	THIS MATTER came before the Court on July 15, 2024, for the purpose of Setting
I/COLE	ucing Revoking Modifying Reviewing Reinstating bond.
	The Defendant III was II
Cann	The Defendant was was not present. Present on behalf of the Defendant was V. Joseph arella, Esq. The State was represented by Scarlett Wilson, Esq. of the Solicitor's Office.
	, and an are corrector 2 Office.
	The Defendant is charged with the following offense(s): Murder
	After hearing from the Defendant 111
	After hearing from the Defendant and the State, the Court finds it appropriate, and it is therefore Deal.
	Bond is Denied Waived at this time with leave for defense counsel to file a written motion for bond.
1	Modificantian Reduction Revocation Review Reinstatement
	recontribution is 10 Denied 1 C
	A Personal Recognizance Bond in the amount of \$ is set at this time. A Surety Bond in the amount of \$ is set at this time. Defendant
	A Surety Bond in the amount of \$ is set at this time.
	Bond is Reduced Modification in
	does does not include other positional to \$
	does does not include other pending charges, and Defendant is is not allowed to post 10%. It is further
	ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREES 4 4 4
	circumstance since the Defendant's initial appearance in Magistrate's Court on April 10,
	2024, danger to the community and the facts as alleged the Defendant's Motion for Modification of the Bond filed June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied.
	AND IT IS SO ORDERED!
	OSC OTENERED.
	N
	Deuten Deuten
OLI .	Deadry L. Lefferson, Presiding Judge 9th Judicial Circuit
July 21	on, South Carolina, At Chambers 2, 2024
The par	ties concede that risk of flight is not an issue for the Court's consideration.
	and Courte's Committee appoint

ልፕጀ	TE OF COLUMN OF THE	
COL	ATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA UNTY OF BERKELEY)	IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
State	e of South Carolina,	Warrant #(s): 2024A0810200681
		Indictment #(s): 2024-GS-08-02283 2024-GS-08-02285 ¹
Anth	hony DeLustro,) Defendant.)	AMENDED ² ORDER ON BOND
	THIS MATTER came before the Court on	Tily 15 2024 for the sure of 💆 5
Redu	ucing Revoking Modifying Rev	July 15, 2024, for the purpose of Setting
	≯ "	
Cann	The Defendant was was not presented by Scarl	ent. Present on behalf of the Defendant was V. Josep lett Wilson, Esq. of the Solicitor's Office.
	The Defendant is charged with the following	g offense(s): Murder
	The state of the s	tate, the Court finds it appropriate, and it is therefore ED that:
	Bond is Denied Waived at this tir	ne with leave for defense counsel to file a written
1	monon for bound,	•
Z	Motion for bond Reduction Revoca	ation Review Reinstatement Detting Bond
	is M Denied Granted at this time.	
] T	A Personal Recognizance Bond in the amou	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
_1.	A Surety Bond in the amount of \$	is set at this time; and the
	Defendant is is is not allowed to pos	
_1	Daniel Da	
]	Bond is Reduced Modified from	\$to \$,
	does does not include other pending to post 10%. It is further ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREE Defendant's release will constitute an unrease in S.C. Code Ann. \$17-15-30(A), and the falled June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied.	\$
	does does not include other pending to post 10%. It is further ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREE Defendant's release will constitute an unrease in S.C. Code Ann. \$17-15-30(A), and the falled June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied.	\$
<u>.</u>	does does not include other pending to post 10%. It is further ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREE Defendant's release will constitute an unrease in S.C. Code Ann. \$17-15-30(A), and the falled June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied.	\$
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charle epten	does does not include other pending to post 10%. It is further ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREE Defendant's release will constitute an unrease in S.C. Code Ann. §17-15-30(A), and the far filed June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied. AND IT IS Sometimes, South Carolina, At Chambers and the constitution of the const	\$
harle epten Amer Amer	does does not include other pending to post 10%. It is further ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREE Defendant's release will constitute an unrease in S.C. Code Ann. §17-15-30(A), and the fafiled June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied. AND IT IS Sometimes of the section, South Carolina, At Chambers	s
charle epten Amer Amer	does does not include other pending to post 10%. It is further ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREE Defendant's release will constitute an unrease in S.C. Code Ann. §17-15-30(A), and the fafiled June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied. AND IT IS Sometimes of the second of the content of the offense and to include the direct Indictment on the offense anded to correct a serivener's error.	s
Amer Amer	does does not include other pending to post 10%. It is further ORDERED ADJUDGED, AND DECREE Defendant's release will constitute an unrease in S.C. Code Ann. §17-15-30(A), and the fafiled June 3, 2024, is heard and Denied. AND IT IS Sometimes of the second of the content of the offense and to include the direct Indictment on the offense anded to correct a serivener's error.	s

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF BERKELEY) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS) FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT)
) Indictment No.: 2024-GS-08-02285¹) Indictment No.: 2024-GS-08-02285²) Warrant No.: 2024A0810200681
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,))
vs.	ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO AMEND BOND ORDER AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC FINDINGS OF FACT
ANTHONY DELUSTRO, Defendant.	
Presiding Judge: State's Attorney: Defendant's Attorney: Date of Bond Hearing: Bond Hearing Court Reporter:	Hon. Deadra L. Jefferson Scarlett A. Wilson, Esquire V. Joseph Cannarella, Esquire July 15, 2024 Jamie Bickett

This matter is before the Court on Defendant's Motion to Amend Bond Order and Provide Specific Findings of Fact received by this office via USPS on September 4, 2024's regarding the Order denying bond issued by this Court on July 26, 2024 and filed by the Berkeley County Clerk of Court on August 8, 2024. The State filed its response on September 13, 2024 and provided the Court with a copy on the same date. The Defendant's Motion and the State's Response are in the form of a memorandum.⁴

⁴ The Court has considered this Motion in the nature of a reconsideration and has disposed of the Motion without the necessity of a hearing and decided on the record and briefs and motions submitted by the parties. See Rule 29, SCRCrimP.



EXHIBIT

¹ May 22, 2024 Indictment on the offense of Murder.

² May 22, 2024 Direct Indicament on the offense of Attempted Kidnapping.

³ The Court received an unfiled copy of the Motion to Amend Bond Order and Provide Specific Findings of Fact on September 4, 2024. To date the Court has not been provided with a filed copy of the Motion.

The Defendant's Motion for Bond came before the Court on July 15, 2024. During a lengthy hearing the Court heard extensive argument from counsel and considered voluminous submissions. It should be noted that the Defendant's presentation consumed more than 50 minutes of the hour-long presentation. After hearing from the parties the Court took the matter under advisement and subsequently denied the Defendant's Motion for Bond by Order signed on July 26, 2024 and filed by the Berkeley County Clerk of Court on August 8, 2024.

Article 1, §15 the S.C. Constitution provides that the authority to grant or deny bond and the conditions of release rests exclusively with the circuit court judge and is within his or her discretion. S.C. Const. art. 1, §15. A circuit court judge is accorded very wide discretion in determining whether the setting of bond is appropriate. The same latitude is accorded to the court in determining if conditions of release are appropriate. S.C. Code Ann. §17-15-30(A). Moreover, the court is vested with the discretion to consider any and all information that reasonably bear on the court's consideration of whether the setting of bond is appropriate under the facts and circumstances of the matter. The Defense misapprehends the mandates of S.C. Const. art.1, §15. S.C. Const. art.1, §15 requires a circuit court judge granting bail to a capital defendant to make specific findings in the order explaining both the decision to grant bail and the amount of bond or other security required. Further, the court in addition to addressing the evidence, nature and circumstances of the alleged crime, require the order to address both the risk of flight and danger to the community aspects of granting bail. State v. Hill and Huggins, 314 S.C. 330, 444 S.E.2d 255 (1994). Specifically noting that the discretion to admit a capital defendant to bail should be

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⁵ The submissions were provided to the Court for review in advance of the hearing.

⁶ The transcript is 39 pages. Defense counsel speaks for approximately 24 pages. The State speaks for approximately 7 pages.

⁷ For purposes of statutory and constitutional construction, word "may" ordinarily signifies permission and generally means action spoken of is optional and discretionary." <u>State v. Hill and Huggins.</u> 314 S.C. 330, 444 S.E.2d 255 (1994).

exercised with utmost caution, and in practice, capital defendants are rarely admitted to bail pending trial. Id.

This Court finds that Defendant has outlined no sound reason for this Court to modify its denial of bond or to provide specific findings of fact.8 The Court has made the requisite findings it considered in denying the Defendant's Motion for Bond. The defense claim that the Court's basis for the denial was arbitrary is without merit. The Court's decision is well founded and more than amply supported by the record before it on July 15, 2024.

Defendant's Motion raises no new issues, nor proffers any arguments the Court failed to consider during the Defendant's Bond hearing. Further, this Court deems that the denial of the Defendant's Motion for Bond filed June 3, 2024 is abundantly supported by the record and appropriate under the facts and circumstances presented to the Court on July 15, 2024. Moreover, this Court finds that Defendant has offered the same arguments the Court considered when determining the Motion and seeks to only reargue the matter on the same basis.

Having fully considered the Defendant's Motion to Amend Bond Order and Provide Specific Findings of Fact, the submissions and arguments presented at the July 15, 2024 hearing, the parties memoranda and the requirements set forth in S.C. Const. art.1, §15 and S.C. Code Ann. §17-15-30 as well as having fully reviewed the record and the various interests balanced by the Court at the time of the ruling, Defendant's Motion to Amend Bond Order and Provide Specific Findings of Fact is hereby **DENIED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Presiding Judge Ninth Judicial Circuit

September 16, 2024 Charleston, S.C., at Chambers

The Court has corrected any scrivener's errors contained in the original Order dated July 26, 2024 by issuing an Amended Order signed September 16, 2024.

Reverend Mansignor Edward D. Lofton 215 Blue Bonnet St. Summerville, S.C. 29483 April 23, 2024

Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Via, The Savage Law Firm 15 Prioleau Street, Charleston, S.C. 29401

I am Reverend Monsignor Edward D. Lofton a retired priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston. These been ordained for over forty- one years and I still actively serve the Diocese as a 'Supply' priest and the Director for the Pontifical Missions Societies. I have three Master's degrees: Public Administration (MPA) from the Univ. of S.C., MA in Theology and a MDIV in Pastoral Counseling from Mt. St. Mary's Seminary and College, Emmitsburg, Md. The majority of my years of ministry has been in Pastoral work and Pastoral Counseling. In 1991 I received the Papal Honor, Prelate of Honor from his Holiness St. John Paul II.

Prior to ordination, I served in the USAF, was Assistant Dean in the SC Technical College system, and the Director of Personnel for the City of Sumter. In Sumter I also served as an Auxiliary Police Officer. After my ordination to the Priesthood, I served as a Police Chaplain to the City of North Charleston, and Charleston County, and was the Chaplain of the Year in 1994. I have also served as the Catholic Chaplain at Evans Correctional facility and Charleston County Detention Center. Upon my retirement, I received the State of SC award, The Order of the Palmetto.

I am writing on behalf of Anthony (Tony) Delustro. I have known Tony and his family for over six years. I first met Tony and his family when they became members of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Summerville. I was the Pastor of the parish when Tony and his family relocated from New York after his retirement from the NYC Police Department:

I counseled Tony and his wife, Pilar, about a family difficulty regarding his daughter, Denise, who had a drug problem and a failed relationship. Tony was very concerned about his two granddaughters and their welfare. Tony and Pilar were able to secure custody of their granddaughters; I had the honor of Baptizing them and I helped them enroll in Summerville Catholic School. Tony and Pilar also had another daughter, Kristine, who was born with Down's syndrome. They took amazing care of Kristine until she passed away from Covid. Both Tony and Kristine came down with Covid and they both were hospitalized in intensive care. Tony was able to be with Kristine at her death in the hospital and, fortunately, he recovered a short time later and was discharged. His wife Pilar also came down with Covid and was hospitalized and recovered. They severely grieved the loss of Kristine whom they loved so much; I was blessed to be able to celebrate Kristine's funeral and provide grief counselling for the family.

After his retirement and relocation to SC. Tony did security work to supplement his retirement. After having secured custody of his granddaughters, Tony was concerned about being in a better financial condition to pay for his granddaughters present and future education needs. I counseled Tony about employment opportunities in the local area. Eventually he decided to seek employment with the Summerville Police Department and was hired. He completed the SC Criminal Justice Academy and was commissioned as a Police Officer.

EXHIBIT

Over the years of my personal contact with Tony and his family I have come to know him well. He is very committed to his family and to his faith. He is very conscious of carrying out his duties to God, family and community in a most responsible way. Because of this dedication to God, family and community, he received numerous awards from his work in the NYC police force. He and Pilar frequently attend daily Mass at St. John's Catholic parish plus the normal Sunday obligation. Tony is an open and honest person who can be characterized as 'what you see is what you get.' Tony is not a threat to society in any way; as his whole life has demonstrated, he worked to protect and defend the communities he and his family lived in. He has my full respect and I am proud to know him and his family and I value him as a true friend.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Monsignor Edward D. Lofton, B.A. MPA, MA, MDiv.

Retired Pastor



July 6, 2024

Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit 300-B California Ave. Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Dear Judge,

I hope you are well. I am writing on behalf of Mr. Anthony Delustro and his character. I serve as the executive director and senior chaplain of the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy. We offer chaplaincy care for our tri-county first responders and the community. I have had the honor of serving with the Chaplaincy for sixteen years, served parishes for ten years as a United Methodist minister, and serve previously as a police officer and instructor with the Charleston Police Department.

The Chaplaincy has served the Summerville Police Department for over five years and I have had the pleasure of getting to know Anthony personally since March zo^{th} of this year. Anthony has dedicated his life to public service, caring for the community as a police officer for 35 years, serving with the City of New York Police Department, then in South Carolina with the Summerville Police Department. I know that many of his police colleagues have appreciated his mentoring and professionalism. Anthony is deeply rooted in protecting his community and family, often with honorable personal sacrifice. His service in response to the 9/11 tragedy sacrificed his health, leading to a 9/11 related cancer diagnosis.

Since retiring to South Carolina, one of his daughters passed away from Covid and he assumed custody of his other daughter's children, ages ten and thirteen. Anthony returned to policing in his 60's to provide for his granddaughters' care and school tuition. His service to his community and care for his family have been a full measure of devotion and sacrifice.

Anthony's home is in the community that he served, living with his wife and grandchildren. I have personally been to his home numerous times to visit and have known the DeLustros to be a kind, caring, peaceful, and loving family. They are also a family of faith, attending St. John's Catholic Church, and the children attending Summerville Catholic School. Their life is grounded in their faith and family values.

LIGHT +HOPE

EXHIBIT

Anthony is a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. I have often observed him exuding integrity, selflessness, and generosity in his interactions with his granddaughters and wife. He often would offer guidance to his granddaughters through wise council, and with a consistent intentionality demonstrated his dedication to providing for his family and caring for his beloved wife. His heart and character are rooted in his faith and family life, and poured out through his public service.

It is an honor to call Anthony a friend and to know his love for family, his fellow first responders and our community. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your kind attention.

Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy 2500 City Hall Ln. North Charleston, SC 29406 (843) 724-1212 Chaplaincy@CrisisChaplaincy.org

Blessings,

Rev. Rich Robinson + Executive Director

cc: Anthony Delustro

Morgan Altman, Savage Law Firm, maltman@savlaw.com

May 2, 2024

Savage Law Firm

15 Prioleau Street

Charleston SC 29401

Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit,

Greetings! I hope this note finds you very well!

I write this reference for my parishioner Anthony DeLustro. I have known Anthony for the five years that I have been pastor of Saint John the Beloved Catholic Church in downtown Summerville. He and his wife Pilar are raising their two granddaughters in the Christian faith. They are sending them to Summerville Catholic School. Not only are they making the sacrifice to pay their tuition and other fees, but Pilar DeLustro volunteers and helps out at their school.

Anthony retired from the New York City police department as a sergeant. I have been to his house several times and proudly he showed me some of his plaques and awards. The N.Y.P.D. has thousands of officers, but Anthony showed me that he was awarded "police officer of the month" several times.

Since they are paying tuition at the Catholic school, and also to stay busy, he discussed with me about joining the police department here in Summerville, which he did.

Anthony is a good Christian man who is giving a good example to others by coming to church and raising his granddaughters. I hope and pray that he can be cleared of all charges so he can resume his life as a good Christian and a good man all around!

If I can be of any further help, please let me know. (cell- 843-655-1248)

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Rev. Raymond J Carlo, V.F. Pastor

EXHIBIT

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2. https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/-duty-sc-cop-charged-fatal-shooting-driver-

fleeing-fight-renal 47750

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4. https://www.scsolicitor9.org/news/2024/delustro-press-release-sw1.pdf

5. https://www.wspa.com/news/state-news/former-sc-officer-charged-with-murder-after-shooting-killing-winston-salem-man-outside-chick-fil-a/?nxsparam=1

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