No. COA 21-144 DISTRICT FIVE

NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)	
)	
v.)	From New Hanover
)	
JAQUALYN ROBINSON)	
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PETITION FOR W	/RIT (OF CERTIORARI
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No. COA 21-144 DISTRICT FIVE

NORTH	CAROLINA	COURT OF	APPEALS
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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)	
v.)	From New Hanover
JAQUALYN ROBINSON)	
************	*****	******

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

TO THE HONORABLE NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS:

Jaqualyn Robinson, the Petitioner herein, respectfully petitions this Court to issue its Writ of Certiorari, pursuant to Rule 21 of the North Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure, N.C.G.S. § 7A-32(c), and N.C.G.S. § 15A-1444(e), to review the order denying his motion to suppress evidence entered by the Honorable R. Kent Harrell on 29 October 2020 in case numbers 20 CRS 051122-24. This Court should issue the writ because (1) the right to appeal was lost when trial counsel

gave oral and written notice of appeal only after the entry of a guilty plea, and (2) the trial court erred in denying the motion to suppress.

STATEMENT OF PERTINENT FACTS

- 1. This matter was heard at the 26 October 2020 Session of Criminal Superior Court in New Hanover County on indictments charging Mr. Robinson with a window tint violation, driving while license revoked, carrying a concealed gun, possession of a Schedule I controlled substance, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, possession of marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a Schedule II controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a controlled substance within 1000 feet of a park, and possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or deliver a controlled substance within 1000 feet of a school. (App. 1-3)
- 2. On 29 October 2020, the trial court held a hearing on Mr. Robinson's motion to suppress. After hearing evidence and arguments, the trial court allowed the motion to suppress with regard to Mr. Robinson's statements but denied the motion with regard to evidence collected as the result of searches of his person and his vehicle. Mr.

Robinson's attorney objected to this ruling but did not enter notice of appeal. (App. 4-17, 23-24; T p 71)

- 3. The trial court then recessed for roughly two and a half hours. Mr. Robinson returned to the courtroom and entered a plea of guilty to felony possession of cocaine and carrying a concealed weapon. The remaining charges were dismissed. Mr. Robinson was sentenced to 4-14 months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months supervised probation. (App. 25-32; T pp 73-74)
- 4. The next day, Mr. Robinson returned to court. His counsel gave oral notice of appeal and asked that an appellate defender be appointed. The trial court inquired, "You're going to appeal the guilty plea?" Counsel responded, "Judge, it's my understanding that I have to appeal the entire judgment." The same day, trial counsel filed a written notice of appeal from the judgment in Mr. Robinson's case. The trial court then signed the Appellate Entries. (App. 33-37; T pp 83-85)
- 5. On 5 November 2020, undersigned counsel was appointed to represent Mr. Robinson on his direct appeal. (App. 38) On 2 March 2021, the record on appeal was filed in this Court. The appeal was docketed as No. COA21-144.

6. Mr. Robinson's opening brief in this matter is due on 1 April 2021.

REASONS WHY THE WRIT SHOULD ISSUE

Mr. Robinson submits that trial counsel's objection prior to the entry of the guilty plea was sufficient to put the State on notice and preserve the suppression issue for appellate review. See State v. Williams, 2003 N.C. App. LEXIS 1301 (2003) (unpublished, attached in appendix) (denying State's motion to dismiss under these circumstances). Should this Court disagree that the objection preserved Mr. Robinson's appeal of right, the Court is nonetheless empowered to issue its writ of certiorari to reach this meritorious issue.

A. This Court Has Jurisdiction to Issue a Writ of Certiorari

When a defendant pleads guilty after the trial court denies his motion to suppress, the suppression issue is preserved for appellate review only if the defendant gives the State notice of his intent to appeal the denial before the plea is entered. *State v. McBride*, 120 N.C. App. 623, 625 (1995). This is best accomplished by including the right to appeal the suppression issue in the plea transcript. *State v. Pimental*, 153 N.C. App. 69, 76 (2002). However, there are other means sufficient

to convey the intent to appeal the denial of a motion to suppress. See, e.g., State v. Brown, 217 N.C. App. 566, 570-71 (2011) (defendant objected to the denial of his motion, stated his intent to appeal from "motions," and then changed his plea to guilty).

Here, Mr. Robinson objected to the denial of the motion to suppress. (T p 71) The parties then agreed to hold open the State's existing plea offer, which Mr. Robinson accepted less than three hours later. (T pp 72-74) However, the plea transcript does not refer to the motion to suppress. (App. 25-28)

1. Certiorari Is Appropriate Under the Rules of Appellate Procedure

Under Appellate Rule 21(a)(1), this Court may issue its writ of certiorari to permit review "when the right to prosecute an appeal has been lost by the failure to take timely action[.]" In this case, Mr. Robinson's objected to the denial of the motion to suppress prior to the entry of the guilty plea but did not simultaneously give formal notice of appeal from the suppression order. (T pp 71, 73-80, 84) Had proper notice been given prior to the plea, the issue would be preserved. Thus, trial counsel's failure to give timely notice has denied Mr. Robinson the opportunity to appeal. Mr. Robinson acknowledges that this Court has

decided this issue to the contrary, see, e.g., State v. Harris, 243 N.C. App. 137, 138 (2015), but submits for preservation purposes that the issue was wrongly decided.

2. Certiorari Is Appropriate Under the Statute

In the past, this Court has found that it "is without authority" to grant certiorari to defendants seeking review of a suppression order who failed to give notice prior to entering a guilty plea. *Pimental*, 153 N.C. App. at 77. However, the Supreme Court recently allowed the defendant's Petition for Discretionary Review in *State v. Killette*, 2021 N.C. LEXIS 63, No. 379PA18-2 (Feb. 3, 2021), which asks whether such an approach is irreconcilable with the Supreme Court's decisions in *State v. Stubbs*, 368 N.C. 40 (2015) and *State v. Ledbetter*, 371 N.C. 192 (2018). *See* Petition at https://www.ncappellatecourts.org/showfile.php?document_id=258304; Defendant-Appellant's Brief at https://www.ncappellate courts.org/show-file.php?document_id=282624.

Under N.C. R. App. P. 21(a)(1), this Court may issue a writ of certiorari if (a) the right to appeal has been lost by the failure to take timely action, (b) no right to appeal from an interlocutory order exists, or (c) a party seeks review from an order on a motion for appropriate

relief. "[W]hile Rule 21 might appear at first glance to limit the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals [to these circumstances], the Rules cannot take away jurisdiction given to that court by the General Assembly." *Stubbs*, 368 N.C. at 44.

N.C.G.S. § 7A-32(c) affords a much broader scope, providing that the Court of Appeals "has jurisdiction . . . to issue the prerogative writs, including mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, and supersedeas, in aid of its own jurisdiction, or to supervise and control the proceedings of any of the trial courts of the General Court of Justice." "This statute empowers the Court of Appeals to review trial court rulings . . . by writ of certiorari unless some other statute restricts the jurisdiction that subsection 7A-32(c) grants." State v. Thomsen, 369 N.C. 22, 25 (2016). In other words, the General Assembly has created a default rule that the Court of Appeals has jurisdiction to review a lower court ruling through certiorari, unless another statute specifically jurisdiction in the type of case at issue.

In *Ledbetter*, the Supreme Court applied its analysis in *Stubbs* and *Thomsen* to a defendant who, like Mr. Robinson, entered a plea of guilty. 371 N.C. at 195. N.C.G.S. § 15A-1444(e) provides that when a

defendant has entered a plea of guilty and is otherwise not entitled to appellate review as a matter of right, he or she may petition for writ of certiorari. Under *Ledbetter*, this Court has both the jurisdiction and the discretionary authority to issue a writ of certiorari in cases involving guilty pleas. 371 N.C. at 197. *Killette* will take the next step, applying these cases to Mr. Robinson's specific situation: the availability of certiorari to a defendant whose right to appeal the denial of a motion to suppress was lost through the failure to give notice of appeal prior to entering a guilty plea.

Pursuant to *Stubbs*, *Thomsen*, and *Ledbetter*, where a statute gives the Court of Appeals jurisdiction to issue a writ of certiorari, Rule 21 cannot be used to take that right away. The proper analysis begins with whether there is an authorizing statute and whether that statute contains any limitations to jurisdiction. N.C.G.S. § 15A-979(b) provides that "An order finally denying a motion to suppress evidence may be reviewed upon appeal from a judgment of conviction, including a judgment entered upon a plea of guilty." N.C.G.S. § 15A-1444(e) provides that even if a defendant who has pled guilty is not otherwise entitled to an appeal as a matter of right, he nonetheless retains the

ability to petition for writ of certiorari. Neither statute contemplates or authorizes any limitations on this Court's ability to consider and allow such petitions. While Mr. Robinson's failure to give timely notice of appeal from the denial of the motion to suppress may impact whether he has an appeal of right under § 15A-979(b), it has no effect on this Court's ability to allow this Petition, as authorized by § 15A-1444(e).

Whether through Appellate Rule 21(a)(1) or N.C.G.S. § 7A-32(c) and § 15A-1444(e), this Court has the authority to issue its writ of certiorari to reach the meritorious issue presented in Mr. Robinson's forthcoming brief.

B. Mr. Robinson's Claim Has Merit

1. Review of Facts

On the afternoon of 5 February 2020, Wilmington Police Department Officer Ben Galluppi pulled over the Chrysler Mr. Robinson was driving because its windows were too darkly tinted. (T pp 7-8) When asked, Mr. Robinson provided the vehicle's registration but said he did not have his license with him. (T pp 11-12) When Officer Galluppi ran the registration, he learned that Mr. Robinson's license had been suspended. (T pp 39-44) Based on the window tint violation

and driving while license revoked, Officer Galluppi would have written Mr. Robinson a ticket and released him. (*Id.*)

However, while speaking with Mr. Robinson, Officer Galluppi detected "a very faint odor of marijuana...coming from the vehicle." (T pp 12-13) In his training as a law enforcement officer, Galluppi learned about "the odor of marijuana and how it was probable cause for searching a vehicle." (T pp 13-14) Based only on the "very faint odor of marijuana," Officer Galluppi directed Mr. Robinson to step out of his vehicle and sit in the back of Galluppi's police cruiser. (T pp 14-15) Another officer stood with Mr. Robinson while Officer Galluppi searched the Chrysler. (T pp 15-16) A revolver and a pill believed to be MDMA were found in the car. (T pp 16-17) A second similar pill was found during a pat-down of Mr. Robinson. (T pp 49-51) During a strip search of Mr. Robinson at the police station, officers recovered a plastic bag which appeared to contain marijuana and crack cocaine. (T pp 18-19)

At the suppression hearing, the trial court took judicial notice of the statutes legalizing hemp and a bulletin of the State Bureau of Investigation. (App. 18-22; T pp 54-55, 57) Defense counsel acknowledged existing caselaw holding that the odor of marijuana provides probable cause for a search of a suspect's vehicle and person. However, she argued, given the subsequent legalization of hemp and the fact that hemp and marijuana cannot be distinguished on smell alone, the odor of suspected marijuana is no longer sufficient on its own to create probable cause. (T pp 60-61) Because the odor of suspected marijuana was the only reason Mr. Robinson and his vehicle were searched, all the fruits of that search must be suppressed. (T pp 63-64)

The trial court denied the motion to suppress, saying:

The fact that hemp is legal in North Carolina does not create a de facto legalization of marijuana. So the odor of marijuana, until our appellate courts state otherwise, is a sufficient basis, because marijuana is still an illegal substance. The fact that its illegal nature is not readily apparent is the case with a lot of controlled substances. You don't really know what you've got until you get a lab test back to confirm what it is. So the odor of marijuana is a sufficient basis to conduct a warrantless search under that [sic] automobile exception.

(T pp 69-70, emphasis added) Trial counsel objected to this ruling in open court. (T p 71)

In the trial court's subsequent written order, it found as fact that, when Officer Galluppi approached Mr. Robinson's vehicle, he "detected what he believed to be an odor of marijuana." The trial court further found that "[m]arijuana and hemp share very similar physical

characteristics and it is difficult to tell one from the other either by appearance or by smell." (App. 23) Nonetheless, the trial court made the following conclusions of law:

- 2. That the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle provided sufficient probable cause for a warrantless search of the vehicle under the automobile exception to the Fourth Amendment warrant requirement.
- 3. The fact that marijuana and hemp share similar characteristics and have a similar odor does not negate the ability of law enforcement to use the odor of a potentially controlled substance as a sufficient basis to establish probable cause for the warrantless search of a vehicle. Marijuana is still an illegal substance in this state.

(App. 24)

B. Standard of Review and Core Principles

"The scope of appellate review upon a motion to suppress is strictly limited to determining whether the trial judge's underlying findings of fact are supported by competent evidence, in which event they are conclusively binding on appeal, and whether those factual findings in turn support the judge's ultimate conclusions of law." *State v. Brown*, 248 N.C. App. 72, 74 (2016) (citation omitted).

A warrantless search of a motor vehicle on a public roadway is not in violation of the Fourth Amendment if it is supported by probable cause. State v. Isleib, 319 N.C. 634, 638 (1987). "Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances within an officer's knowledge, and of which he had reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient in themselves to warrant a man of reasonable caution in the belief that an offense has been or is being committed, and that evidence bearing on that offense will be found in the place to be searched." Safford Unified School Dist. #1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364, 370 (2009) (cleaned up).

C. Analysis

Officer Galluppi detected the "very faint odor" of something that may or may not have been a controlled substance. (T p 12) In the absence of any other evidence to suggest that source of this odor was illegal in nature, Officer Galluppi had only a bare suspicion that it was marijuana, not probable cause. Therefore, the trial court erred in denying the motion to suppress all evidence resulting from the search of Mr. Robinson's vehicle and his person.

1. Findings of Fact

The trial court made only one finding of fact regarding the State's evidence to support a probable cause: "Officer Galluppi detected what he believed to be an odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle."

(App. 23) The trial court did not make any findings of fact regarding various factors that could make such a belief reasonable.

Regarding the defense's evidence, the trial court found as fact that, "Marijuana and hemp share very similar physical characteristics and it is difficult to tell one from the other either by appearance or by smell." (App. 24) This finding of fact is not supported by competent evidence. Marijuana and hemp are not merely similar in terms of smell and appearance, they are identical. (App. 19) In addition, the trial court improperly disregarded the SBI memo's statement that it is impossible for an officer in the field to distinguish between marijuana and hemp. (Id.) Although the SBI memo's position on how this would affect probable cause was not binding on the trial court, it should have been given weight considering the SBI's undisputed expertise with drug investigations and prosecutions.

2. Conclusions of Law

The trial court's finding of fact that it is "difficult" to tell whether a substance is marijuana based on smell alone does not support its subsequent conclusion that such an odor, standing alone, forms the basis for probable cause. (App. 24) Similarly, the trial court's finding of

fact that Officer Galluppi "believed" what he smelled was marijuana does not, in the absence of any finding that such belief was reasonable or based on sufficient training and experience, give rise to probable cause. (App. 23)

Existing caselaw finding the odor of suspected marijuana sufficient to create probable cause, see, e.g., State v. Greenwood, 301 N.C. 705, 708 (1982), has been effectively overruled by subsequent legislation legalizing industrial hemp, which is indistinguishable from marijuana by scent alone. See N.C.G.S. § 106-568.50 et. seq. As the State Bureau of Investigation observed, legal hemp "and marijuana look the same and have the same odor, both unburned and burned. This makes it impossible for law enforcement to use the appearance of marijuana or the odor of marijuana to develop probable cause for arrest, seizure of the item, or probable cause for a search warrant." (App. 19) Officer Galluppi was incapable of distinguishing between the odor of marijuana - an illegal substance - and the odor of hemp - a legal substance, as making this distinction requires chemical analysis performed in a laboratory. (*Id.*)

The very faint odor of something that may or may not be illegal amounts to nothing more than "bare suspicion" that criminal activity has occurred. State v. Zuniga, 312 N.C. 251, 261 (1984); see also Phil Dixon, Hemp or Marijuana?, available at: https://nccriminallaw.sog. unc.edu/hemp-or-marijuana/ ("without a field test or some other way to verify whether something is hemp or marijuana, officers do not have probable cause to seize it or to arrest someone for possession of it without some other reason to believe the substance is contraband.") This is especially true where the trial court's findings of fact do not establish that the officer had the training and experience necessary to identify or differentiate between legal and illegal substances.

Given that the smell of marijuana is indistinguishable from the smell of hemp, and that there was no other evidence suggesting that Mr. Robinson was involved with controlled substances, it was not probable that the "very faint" odor detected by Officer Galluppi was marijuana, it was merely possible. The Fourth Amendment requires more.

But for trial counsel's failure to give appropriate notice, Mr.

Robinson would be able to present this meritorious issue to the Court

and obtain relief from his wrongfully procured convictions. Certiorari should be allowed when "the ends of justice will be thereby promoted." *King v. Taylor*, 188 N.C. 450, 451 (1924) (citation omitted); *State v. Hammonds*, 218 N.C. App. 158, 163 (2012) (issuing writ to avoid manifest injustice).

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons and authorities, Jaqualyn Robinson, the Petitioner herein, respectfully requests that this Court issue its writ of certiorari to permit him to proceed on an appeal of the suppression order entered in New Hanover County Superior Court and for all other relief as this Court deems proper.

Respectfully submitted, this the 24th day of March 2021.

By Electronic Submission:
Sarah Holladay
North Carolina State Bar Number 33987
P.O. Box 52427
Durham, NC 27717
(919) 695-3127
sarah@holladaylawoffice.com

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT-APPELLANT

AFFIRMATION

Pursuant to Emergency Directive 5 of the former Chief Justice's 30 May 2020 order, extended by the current Chief Justice's 12 March 2021 order, counsel affirms, under the penalties of perjury, the representations in the foregoing petition are true to counsel's knowledge, except as to matters represented upon information and belief, and as to those matters, counsel believes them to be true.

This the 24th day of March 2021.

Sarah Holladay

CERTIFICATE OF FILING AND SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original Petition for Writ of Certiorari has been filed pursuant to Rule 26 by electronic means with the Clerk of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

I further certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition for Writ of Certiorari has been duly served upon the following party by deposit in the United States mail, first-class and postage-prepaid:

Joshua Stein Attorney General P.O. Box 629 Raleigh, NC 27602 William Van Trigt Assistant District Attorney P.O. Box 352 Wilmington, NC 28402

This the 24th day of March 2021.

By Electronic Submission: Sarah Holladay North Carolina State Bar Number 33987 No. COA 21-144 DISTRICT FIVE

NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

*************	********
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA v.)) <u>From New Hanover</u>)
JAQUALYN ROBINSON	
************	********
	FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
<u>II</u>	NDEX
Motion to Suppress	

In addition to these attachments, Mr. Robinson incorporates by reference the Record on Appeal and the transcript, which have previously been filed with the Court in this case, COA 21-144, and his appellate brief, to be filed on or before 1 April 2021.

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA In the General Court of Justice **Superior Court Division** Case No. 20CRS051122 **Indictment New Hanover County** State Versus **JAQUALYN ROBINSON** Offense(s) **Date of Offense** G.S. No. Class ı. WINDOW TINT VIOLATION 02/05/2020 20-127(D) II. CARRYING CONCEALED GUN (M) 02/05/2020 14-269 III. POSSESS SCH I CS 02/05/2020 90-95(A)(3) ١. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully and willfully did operate a motor vehicle on a highway with a total light transmission of the tinted window of less than 35%. II. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully and willfully did intentionally carry concealed about the defendant's person while off the defendant's own premises a gun, a Charter Arms Bulldog, .44 Special Revolver 5 Shot, Serial Number: 231541. III. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously did possess a controlled substance, 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, which is included in Schedule I of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. Signature of Prosecutor Witnesses □ B. Galluppi / WPD R. Knopf / WPD The witnesses marked "X" were sworn by the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury, and after hearing testimony, this bill was found to be: A TRUE BILL by twelve or more grand jurors, and I the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury, attest the concurrence of twelve or more grand jurors in this Bill of Indictment. **NOT A TRUE BILL** Date: 5/28/20 Signature of Grand Jury Foreman: ext Sunt

STATE of NORTH CAROLIN In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division Case No. 20CRS051123 Indictment New Hanover County **State Versus JAQUALYN ROBINSON** Offense(s) **Date of Offense** G.S. No. Class I. **DWLR NOT IMPAIRED REV** 02/05/2020 20-28(A) 3 11. POSSESS SCH II CS (F) 02/05/2020 90-95(A)(3) III. POSSESS MARIJUANA UP TO ½ OZ 02/05/2020 90-95(A)(3) ١. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully and willfully did operate a motor vehicle on a street or highway while the defendant's license was revoked. 11. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously did possess Cocaine, a controlled substance that is included in Schedule II of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. 111. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully and willfully did possess Marijuana, a controlled substance that is included in Schedule VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. Signature of Prosecutor Witnesses ☐ B. Galluppi / WPD **超** R. Knopf / WPD The witnesses marked "X" were sworn by the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury, and after hearing testimony, this bill was found to be: A TRUE BILL by twelve or more grand jurors, and I the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury, attest the concurrence of twelve or more grand jurors in this Bill of Indictment. **NOT A TRUE BILL**

Signature of Grand Jury Foreman:

Date:

5/28/20

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA
In the General Court of Justice
Superior Court Division

Case No. 20CRS051124

New Hanover County

Indictment

State Versus

JAQUALYN ROBINSON

Offer	se(s)	Date of Offense	G.S. No.	Class
1.	PWIMSD SCH II CS	02/05/2020	90-95(A)(1)	Н
II.	M/S/D/P CS W/N 1000FT OF PARK	02/05/2020	90-95(E)(10)	Ε
111.	M/S/D/P CS W/N 1000FT OF SCHOOL	02/05/2020	90-95(E)(8)	E

- I. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously did possess with intent to manufacture, sell, and deliver a controlled substance, namely Cocaine, which is included in Schedule II of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act.
- II. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously did commit and offense under G.S. 90-95(a)(1) by possessing with intent to manufacture, sell, and deliver Cocaine, a controlled substance included in Schedule II of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act within 1000 feet of the boundary of real property that is a public park, Tower Park, Wilmington, North Carolina. The defendant was 21 years of age or older, namely 24, at the time of this offense.
- III. The jurors for the State upon their oath present that on or about the date of offense shown and in the county named above the defendant named above unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously did commit and offense under G.S. 90-95(a)(1) by possessing with intent to manufacture, sell, and deliver Cocaine, a controlled substance included in Schedule II of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act within 1000 feet of the boundary of real property used for an elementary school, Mary W. Howe Pre-K School. The defendant was 21 years of age or older, namely 24, at the time of this offense.

Signature of Prosecutor

Witnesses

☐ B. Galluppi / WPD

☑ R. Knopf / WPD

The witnesses marked "X" were sworn by the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury, and after hearing testimony, this bill was found to be:

A TRUE BILL by twelve or more grand jurors, and I the undersigned Foreman of the Grand Jury, attest the concurrence of twelve or more grand jurors in this Bill of Indictment.

□ NOT A TRUE BILL

Date: 5/28/20

Signature of Grand Jury Foreman:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

FILE NUMBERS 20 CRS 51122 - 51124

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

vs.

MOTION TO SUPPRESS

JAQUALYN ROBINSON,

Defendant.

NOW COMES the Defendant, by and through the undersigned counsel, pursuant to the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; Article I, Sections 19, 20,23, and 24 of the Constitution of North Carolina, and *Mapp v. Ohio*, 367 U.S. 643, (1961), and moves this Honorable Court to exclude alleged evidence found by Wilmington Police Department Officer B. J. Galluppi and assisting law enforcement officer during the initial stop as unlawfully collected. Since the enactment of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 106-568.50 et seq., the sight or odor of Cannabis sativa does not indicate with any certainty that the Defendant was engaged in, or about to engage in any illegal activity, removing any justification of probable cause for the stop, search or seizure of evidence. In support of this Motion, the Defendant respectfully shows as follows:

1. That the Defendant is charged with the alleged offenses of Window Tinting Violation, Carrying Concealed Gun, Felony Possession Schedule I Controlled Substance, Driving While License Revoked Not Impaired Revocation, Felony Possession Schedule II Controlled Substance, Possess Marijuana up to One-Half Ounce, PWIMSD Schedule II Controlled Substance, M/S/D/P Controlled Substance within One Thousand Feet of Park, and M/S/D/P Controlled Substance

- withi One Thousand Feet of School in the above captioned matters.
- 2. That on or about February 5, 2020, Officer B. J. Galluppi with the Wilmington Police Department conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle of which Defendant was operating due to alleged window tint violation that Officer B. J. Galluppi noticed when the vehicle the Defendant was operating passed by Officer B. J. Galluppi.
- 3. That Officer B. J. Galluppi began questioning the Defendant.
- 4. That Officer B. J. Galluppi reported that he "also could smell a faint odor of marijuana coming from inside Robinson's vehicle" per the discovery.
- 5. That Officer B. J. Galluppi questioned the Defendant about the alleged odor of marijuana and subsequently informed the Defendant "I would search his vehicle based on the odor of marijuana smell".
- 6. That Officer B. J. Galluppi allegedly "located a loaded .44 Charter Arms Revovler in the arm rest" of the driver side of the vehicle which was subsequently seized by law enforcement.
- 7. That Officer G. Galluppi searched the Defendant's person and allegedly located "a MDMA pill in Robinson's pocket".
- 8. That Officer G. Galluppi assisted in the search of the vehicle the Defendant was allegedly operating and allegedly found "another MDMA pill in the back seat behind the drivers seat".
- That the Defendant was subsequently placed under arrest and transported to the
 Wilmington Police Department for processing.
- 10. That Officer B. J. Galluppi and Corproal Norris conducted a strip search of the Defendant at Wilmington Police Department and alleged that "a clear plastic bag,

- fell from inside his pant leg onto the floor" when the Defendant was handing his pants over to Officer B. J. Galluppi.
- 11. That Officer B. J. Galluppi reported that the contents of the clear plastic bag were ".88 grams of cocaine, separated into two baggies. One bag had 4 rocks, and the other bag had a single rock. Additionally there were two separate half bags of marijuana, both combined were 3.52 grams".
- 12. That the arrest of the Defendant and subsequent detention was not supported by reasonable suspicion, probable cause, or other legal justification.
- 13. That the conduct of Officer B. J. Galluppi and assisting law enforcement officers constituted a violation of the Defendant's rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and was in violation of the Defendant's rights under the North Carolina Constitution and the North Carolina General Statutes.
- 14. That the Defendant was seized, and evidence was obtained in violation of the Defendant's constitutional rights as guaranteed by the 4th and 14th Amendments to the U. S. Constitution and by Article I, Section 5, 19, and 20 of the Constitution of North Carolina.
- 15. That the exclusion of said evidence is required by N.C.G.S. §15A-974 in that said evidence was obtained as a result of a substantial violation of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE OF HEMP LEGALIZATION

N.C.G.S. 106-568.50 et seq. legalized the production of industrial hemp. Under the direction of the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission, industrial hemp, a strain of the species Cannabis sativa defined by N.C.G.S. § 106-568.51(7), can now be legally grown and

sold by licensed parties. N.C.G.S § 90-87(16) excludes industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana, which remains a controlled substance. Hemp, as defined in Chapter 106 of the General Statutes, is not a controlled substance and may be lawfully possessed by any citizen of the state.

The species Cannabis sativa includes both hemp and marijuana. As such, both contain the chemicals THC (delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, the primary psychoactive compound in marijuana) and CBD (cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive substance which has been linked to health benefits. See generally State Bureau of Investigations, Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues at 2, https://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/doc_warehouse/NC%20SBI%20-%20Issues%20with%20Hemp%20and%20CBD%20Full.pdf (hereinafter known as Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues). The difference between hemp, which can be legally possessed and purchased, and marijuana, which remains a controlled substance under North Carolina law, is the differing amounts of CBD and THC in the plant. See N.C.G.S § 106-568.51(7). While marijuana typically has typically lower amounts of CBD and higher amounts of the psychoactive THC, hemp has low amounts of THC and typically higher amounts of CBD. See Ernest Small et al., Hemp: A New Crop with New Uses for North America, in Trends in New Crops and New Uses 284, (J. Janick & A. Whipkey eds., 2002), https://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/ncnu02/v5-284.html (noting the common inverse relationship between amounts of THC and CBD in Cannabis). The NC Department of Agriculture routinely inspects licensed industrial hemp to ensure that the THC amount is within acceptable limitations (less than 0.3% of the sample's dry weight, compared to 3-15% for traditional marijuana). See North Carolina Department of Agricultural & Consumer Services, Industrial Hemp Pilot Program in North Carolina: Frequently Asked Questions, at https://www.ncagr.gov/hemp/FAQs.htm (hereinafter known as Industrial

Hemp Pilot Program in North Carolina: Frequently Asked Questions).

The only way to determine if a substance is hemp or marijuana is by testing the chemical composition to measure the THC level. See Industrial Hemp Pilot Program in North Carolina: Frequently Asked Questions (noting that "short of chemical analysis of the THC content, there was no way to distinguish between marijuana and hemp varieties"). There is currently no field test in North Carolina which can differentiate between hemp and marijuana. See Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues at 2. As acknowledged in Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues, this situation creates problems for law enforcement officials attempting to enforce current restrictions on the possession, sale, and distribution of marijuana.

ARGUMENT

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution protects American citizens from unlawful and arbitrary seizure of property by the state. Improperly seized evidence, even if indicative of criminal activity, is inadmissible in court as a violation of this Constitutional protection of our rights. See *Mapp* 367 U.S. at 659. While a lawful search generally requires a warrant, there are exceptions recognized by North Carolina case law. See State v. Greenwood, 301 N.C.705, 708 (1981) ("...the smell of marijuana gave the officer probable cause to search the automobile for the contraband drug"). Since the adoption of N.C.G.S. § 106-568.50 et seq. and the subsequent legalization of industrial hemp, an officer cannot rely on sight and smell of what he believes to be marijuana to form the basis of probable cause to search or seize.

In order to be admissible, evidence must be lawfully obtained by the police. See Mapp 367 U.S. at 655 ("...all evidence obtained by searches and seizures in violation of the Constitution is, by that same authority, inadmissible in a state court"). Because marijuana and legal hemp are indistinguishable by sight or smell, See generally Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues,

there is no way for an officer to establish probable cause for a search based on sight or smell alone. To establish probable cause, the officer must show "at that moment the facts and circumstances within their knowledge and of which they had reasonably trustworthy information were sufficient to warrant a prudent man in believing that the petitioner had committed or was committing an offense." See Beck v. Ohio, 379 U.S. 89, 91 (1964). While State v. Fletcher, 92 N.C. App. 50, 57 (1988), held that police officers could identify marijuana without a chemical analysis, the legalization of industrial hemp means that previously accepted means of identification are no longer useful. See Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues at 2 ("Hemp and marijuana look the same and have the same odor, both unburned and burned. This makes it impossible for law enforcement to use the appearance of marijuana or the odor of marijuana to develop probable cause for arrest, seizure of the item, or probable cause for a search warrant"). As noted by Peg Dorer, director of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys in her testimony before the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources committee on May 30, 2019. "Law enforcement cannot discern the difference between smokable hemp and marijuana, and our State Crime Lab cannot discern the difference because they can't discern the level of the THC that it contains." See Laurie Leslie, Law enforcement fears NC's effort to boost hemp industry could essentially legalize marijuana, WRAL, May 31, 2019, https://www.wral.com/lawenforcement-fears-nc-s-effort-to-boost-hemp-industry-could-essentially-legalizemarijuana/18421082/.

Because an officer cannot determine if a suspect possesses marijuana or hemp, there is no way that an officer can prudently "believ[e] that the [defendant] had committed or was committing an offense" based on sight and smell alone. Lacking probable cause to begin a search, all evidence collected based upon the odor/sight of a substance indistinguishable from

legally purchased hemp is inadmissible under the Fourth Amendment and comparable provisions of the State constitution.

Even if the defendant possesses marijuana, an unlawful seizure would be needed to make that factual determination. Other than unscientific guesses about the nature of the substance, an officer in the field cannot say with certainty if a substance is hemp or marijuana. See Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues at 1 ("...one would need a chemical analysis to tell the difference"). Because the 4th Amendment also protects against seizure of property absent a warrant or probable cause, there is no effective way for the State to identify if the substance is legal or not. For the specific variety of hemp which grows leaves and buds that resemble marijuana, "...one would need a chemical analysis to tell the difference." See Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues at 1. There are currently no tests which can be used by an officer in the field that differentiate hemp and marijuana. See id. Even the NC State Crime Lab lacks the capability to do more than identify the presence of THC which is found in both hemp and marijuana. See id. Without a way to distinguish between the two strains of Cannabis sativa, there can be no probable cause for the seizure required to test the illegality of the substance. The State cannot seize property absent probable cause, see Mapp v. Ohio, 367 U.S. at 655-56, and the seizure of Cannabis sativa to test for illegality is a violation of the right to avoid arbitrary state intrusion. Without additional indicia of a crime, based on something more than sight or smell of cannabis, the lack of probable cause makes the seizure unconstitutional and without the seizure there can be no factual determination the substance is not legally owned industrial hemp.

Because there is no way for an officer to determine if the substance is hemp or marijuana, and because the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution; and Article I, Sections 19, 20,23, and 24 of the Constitution of North Carolina, protects against

arbitrary search and seizure of goods by the police, any evidence collected on the basis of the sight/smell of a substance that resembles marijuana lacks probable cause and is inadmissible in court.

CONCLUSION

- 1. The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution and comparable state constitutional provisions demand that probable cause exist for a search or seizure to be deemed lawful. As there is no factual way for the state to differentiate between legal hemp and marijuana, an officer cannot have information "sufficient to warrant a prudent man in believing that the petitioner had committed or was committing an offense...," see Beck v. Ohio, 379 U.S. at 91, based on sight or smell of the plant Cannabis sativa alone.
- 2. In the above captioned case, Officer B. J. Galluppi alleged that he "could smell a faint odor of marijuana coming from inside Robinson's vehicle" while speaking to the defendant and that he "would search his vehicle based on the odor of marijuana smell" per the discovery.
- 3. The officer had no probable cause to conduct a search of the defendant's person nor the vehicle he was a passenger in based solely on sight/smell of what he believed to be Cannabis sativa as the purchase of legal hemp products (identical in odor and appearance to marijuana) is allowed by N.C.G.S. § 106-568.50 et seq.

It is the command of both the State and Federal constitution that the accused receive a fair trial and the due process of law. To allow admittance of evidence collected through a search conducted without probable cause would unduly prejudice the Defendant and would violate his rights under the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments of the United States Constitution and

Articles 19, 20, 23, and 24 of the North Carolina Constitution.

RELIEF SOUGHT

WHEREFORE, the Defendant moves this Honorable Court to:

- 1. Summarily grant this Motion and enter an Order suppressing any and all evidence obtained as a result of the illegal search and seizure of the Defendant and or his property, including any evidence subsequently obtained as a result of the unconstitutional actions of the Officer;
- 2. Alternatively, that this Honorable Court conduct a pretrial evidentiary hearing in order to receive evidence and make findings as to the legality of the Officer's action.

This the ____ day of July 2020.

Nicco a D. Dobson

Assistant Public Defender

320 Chestnut Street, Suite 201

Post Office Box 2560

Wilmington, NC 28402

Phone: (910) 343-5428

Attorney for the Defendant

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER FILE NUMBERS 20 CRS 51122 -- 51124

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

vs. : <u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

JAQUALYN ROBINSON, Defendant.

Affiant, first being duly sworn, states the following:

1. I am the attorney of record in the above captioned matter.

2. I have read the Motion to Suppress which is being filed contemporaneously with this Motion.

- 3. The Motion to Suppress was prepared after an investigation and review of the discovery which was provided to my office by the State of North Carolina.
- 4. The facts as set forth in the Defendant's Motion to Suppress based on information provided in discovery are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge as set out below from the discovery in the above referenced matters:

"On 02/05/2020 16:09 hrs, I, Officer Benjamin GALLUPPI, was sitting in the parking lot of 1102 Dawson St., facing Northbound perpendicular to Dawson St. I was looking Westbound on Dawson St. and saw a dark colored CHrysler 300, traveling Eastbound on Dawson St. with extremely dark windows.

As the Chrysler passed by, I was unable to see inside the vehicle due to the window tint, and it was daytime outside. I pulled out behind the Chrysler 300, noting the license plate was NC - HCS6595. I was unable to see in the rear

window to see any occupants. I also did not see the green DMV sticker used for those for who had window tint exceptions. I inititated my emergency lights and siren to signal to the driver, I was pulling him over. The Chrysler turned onto Southbound S. 17th St. and continued driving. The driver then turned right onto Wright St. where he pulled over and stopped. I walked up to the drivers side window, which had originally been 1/2 way down during my approach. The driver was identified as JAQUALYN ROBINSON. When asked, ROBINSON stated he left his drivers license at the house. He stated the the vehicle belonged to him. He was also on his cell phone, however I did not hear him talking to anyone. He provided registration that indicicated that the vehicle was registered to him. I informed ROBINSON the reason I stopped him was his window tint. I then went back to my patrol vehicle to run and see if ROBINSON was who he claimed to be. I also could smell a faint odor of marijuana coming from inside ROBINSON'S vehicle. He was also the only occupant inside same. I found that ROBINSON'S license was showing suspended in CJLEADS. I walked back up to ROBINSON, who was still seated in the vehicle and had him step out. He informed me he was having his cousin come to pick him up. I had ROBINSON come back to my passenger seat, where he still remained on the phone. I asked ROBINSON multiple times if he would end his conversation which he finally did. I asked ROBINSON about his drivers license being suspended, which he stated it was for a failure to appear ticket. I asked if his license was still suspended, and he said "it probably is now" While talking to ROBINSON, I inquired if he had anyone inside his vehicle recently, which he said no. I inquired about the marijuana smell which

he stated there was no marijuana in the car. He stated it might have been from the guy he dropped off, but no one smokes in his vehicle. I explained to ROBINSON that I would search his vehicle based on the marijuana smell and had him stand by with another officer. I asked ROBINSON if there were any weapons inside his vehicle, and he shook his head no, and said softly "no" I started a search of the Chrysler 300 at the front passenger side, where It had a strong odor of marijuana. I located a loaded .44 Charter Arms Revolver in the arm rest. I then walked back and placed ROBINSON in handcuffs and had him put in my vehicle. Ofcr G. GALLUPPI conducted a search of ROBINSON, and located a MDMA pill in ROBINSON'S pocket. Ofcr. G. GALLUPPI assisted me in further search of the vehicle, and he located another MDMA pill in the back seat behind the drivers seat which was the same style as the one located on ROBINSON. A further search, yielded nothing inside the vehicle. I tested ROBINSON' S windows utilizing Laser Labs Inspector II, which is an approved window tint device, and his rear driver side window registered at 0%. The vehicle was released to ROBINSON' S cousin who responded to the scene per his request. ROBINSON was arrested and transported to WPD. Upon arrival, Cpl. NORRIS assisted me in conducted a strip search of ROBINSON. We escorted him to the bathroom inside the holding area. I could smell the odor of marijuana on ROBINSON as I walked behind him. I asked ROBINSON to remove his shirt, upon which ROBINSON claimed he was feeling sick and needed to throwup. ROBINSON further claimed that he needed to sit down. I had him remove his shoes, and then his pants, which he had black shorts on under his pants. As ROBINSON removed his pants and

handed them to me, a clear plastic bag, fell from inside his pant leg onto the floor. I looked over at ROBINSON, which his gaze looked at the bag, then immediately looked to the floor. Nothing else was located on ROBINSON'S person. Inside the bag that fell to the floor was .88 grams of crack cocaine, separated into two baggies. One bag had 4 rocks, and the other bag had a single rock. Additionally there were two separate half bags of marijuana, both combined were 3.52 grams. I made a check of nearby schools and parks from the route that I saw ROBINSON drive. I found that ROBINSON had passed within 1000 feet of both Mark W. Howe Pre-K Center, and Tower Park A check of ROBINSON' S record indicicated that he had a pending CCW charge. He was charged with: Window tint, suspended license, CCW - gun, Possession of MDMA, possession crack (cocaine), Possess Marijuana, PWIMSD cocaine, possess w/i 1000' park, posses w/i 1000' school."

stant Public Defender

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA: COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER:

I, Jamie M. Karaszewski, a notary public of Pender County, North Carolina, certify that Niccoya D. Dobson personally appeared before me this day, and being duly sworn, signed the foregoing instrument.

This the \(\mathcal{L}\) day of August 2020.

Notary Public

My commission expires: 17 12 2023

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney does hereby certify that she caused to be served a copy of the foregoing document to the last known address of the Defendant and to District Attorney's Office via hand delivery addressed to the following:

William B. Van Trigt **Assistant District Attorney** 316 Princess Street, Suite 543 Wilmington, NC 28401

This the 13 day of August 2020.

Niccoya D. Dobson Assistant Public Defender 320 Chestnut Street, Suite 201

Post Office Box 2560 Wilmington, NC 28402

Phone: (910) 343-5428

Attorney for the Defendant





NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3320 Garner Road P.O. BOX 29500 Raleigh, NC 27626-0500 (919) 662-4500 FAX: (919) 662-4523



Industrial Hemp/CBD Issues

Background

Session Law 2015-299 established the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission and initiated a pilot program to study the feasibility of industrial hemp as a crop in NC. Industrial hemp is the plant species Cannabis Sativa, which is the same species as marijuana. Industrial hemp contains low levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, a Schedule VI controlled substance in NC. Industrial hemp is engineered to contain high levels of cannabidiol (CBD), which is not psychoactive and has many alleged health benefits including treatment for some forms of epilepsy. It should be noted that the FDA recently approved a pharmaceutical CBD drug called Epidiolex, which can be prescribed by a physician for epilepsy. This is the only FDA approved use of CBD for a medical condition.

There are several types of industrial hemp:

- 1. One variety is grown for seed oils. Oil is extracted from the seeds and used in various food products such as bread, shampoos, and granola products;
- 2. One variety looks like long stalks of bamboo and is grown for fiber for textiles and rope; and
- 3. One variety looks like marijuana and grows "buds" Just like marijuana. CBD is extracted from the buds. This type looks Just like marijuana, including the leaves and buds, and it smells the same as marijuana. In fact, there is no way for an individual to tell the difference by looking at the plant; one would need a chemical analysis to tell the difference.

The NC Department of Agriculture (NC DAG) oversees the growers of Industrial hemp in NC by providing licenses to growers who qualify. NC DAG performs inspections of fields and indoor grown space and takes plant samples which are tested to determine the percentage of THC. If the percentage of THC is determined to be greater than 0.3%, NC DAG burns the plants. NC DAG's lab has the capability to determine the percentage of THC; however, they outsource the testing to a private lab in Durham due to the high number of samples that are submitted.

Due to the popularity of CBD, the overwhelming majority of NC licensees are growing the CBD producing variety of hemp, rather than the variety for clothing and rope. As of July 2018, there were 348 licensed growers on 4548 licensed acres and in 1,630,485 square feet of indoor greenhouse space. As of January 2019, there were well over 500 licensed growers in NC. There are a number of large processing facilities that have recently opened in NC. Hemp grown in NC, as well as many other states, are processed into various CBD containing products in these facilities. These products include balms, lotions, salve, oils, capsules, cigarettes, cigars, and "buds." There are CBD dispensaries that have opened in NC in order to sell these products; in addition, the products are sold in hundreds of tobacco shops, convenience stores, and pharmacies. CBD liquids are sold for vaping. Food products labeled to contain CBD are sold in stores across NC in the form of gummles, trail mix, lollipops, and many other food products. These products are expensive; with a small 4-ounce bottle of CBD oil sold for \$80.00 or a small bag of CBD trail mix for \$40.00. These products are being sold in large quantities, with little oversight by a regulatory body. Recently the FDA banned CBD from food products, dietary supplements, and products claiming medicinal benefits. Currently, the NC DAG is sending letters to notify store owners that they cannot sell food products containing CBD.

Issues for Law Enforcement

There is no easy way for law enforcement to distinguish between industrial hemp and marijuana. There is currently no field test which distinguishes the difference.

Hemp and marijuana look the same and have the same odor, both unburned and burned. This makes it impossible for law enforcement to use the appearance of marijuana or the odor of marijuana to develop probable cause for arrest, seizure of the item, or probable cause for a search warrant. In order for a law enforcement officer to seize an item to have it analyzed, the officer must have probable cause that the item being seized is evidence of a crime. The proposed legislation makes possession of hemp in any form legal. Therefore, in the future when a law enforcement officer encounters plant material that looks and smells like marijuana, he/she will no longer have probable cause to seize and analyze the item because the probable cause to believe it is evidence of a crime will no longer exist since the item could be legal hemp. Police narcotics K9's cannot tell the difference between hemp and marijuana because the K9's are trained to detect THC which is present in both plants. Law enforcement officers cannot distinguish between paraphernalia used to smoke marijuana and paraphernalia used to smoke hemp for the same reasons. The inability for law enforcement to distinguish the difference between hemp and marijuana is problematic in all marijuana prosecutions, from small amounts to trafficking amounts of plant material. There is at least one District Attorney's Office in NC which is currently not prosecuting marijuana cases due to the inability of law enforcement to distinguish the difference between hemp and marijuana.

While NC DAG oversees the hemp growers in NC to ensure that the THC levels are within legal limits, there is currently no regulation of hemp and CBD products. This is particularly concerning because processors in NC are making hemp and CBD products using hemp grown all over the US. We do not verify that hemp grown in another state contains less than the percentage THC required by law, which means that products made in NC may contain a higher percentage of THC than what is allowed by law. Retail products currently sold in NC include hemp "buds" or plant material, hand rolled hemp cigarettes and hemp cigars, CBD/Hemp oils, and edible candies, gummies, and food products. Law enforcement has encountered employees in some businesses who encourage the purchase of hemp products as a legal marijuana alternative. Consumers can currently purchase hemp buds and rolling papers in the same store and then roll a hemp "joint" and smoke it. (Note: On the last page of this document is a series of photographs of "hemp" products sold in stores in NC).

The North Carolina State Crime Laboratory does not conduct testing to differentiate between hemp and marijuana. The State Crime Lab, as well as most municipal crime labs in NC, perform a qualitative analysis on plant material to determine whether THC is present. All hemp and CBD products contain some level of THC; therefore, the crime labs will report these products as containing marijuana or THC, which are both Schedule VI controlled substances. While it has been suggested that additional funds be allocated to the Crime Lab in order to add additional chemists and equipment to conduct the quantitative analysis described above, this will not resolve the issue. As previously mentioned, law enforcement cannot seize an item without probable cause that the item is evidence of a crime. Not being able to distinguish between hemp and marijuana defeats the previous basis for probable cause to seize items believed to be marijuana.

Many products for sale in commercial businesses are intentionally mislabeled to contain CBD, but they contain harmful Schedule I controlled substances, synthetic cannabinoids, "bath salts," and other adulterants such as rat poison. Law enforcement cannot rely on the product labels to accurately identify the ingredients or percentages. For example, if a package of hemp "buds" has a label that states it contains less than 0.3% THC, law enforcement cannot rely on the label to be accurate. The product could contain marijuana or another controlled substance. But law enforcement does not currently have the legal right to seize the product and the crime labs do not have the ability to confirm the percentages. The crime labs can only identify THC or other controlled substances.

According to the FDA, CBD cannot be contained in food products such as gummles, follipops, etc. This is particularly concerning for several reasons: first, children could purchase these products as there is no purchasing age limit;

secondly, these products may be mislabeled and contain other psychoactive substances such as THC or Schedule I synthetic cannabinoids.

The FDA approved a product called Epidiolex, which contains CBD, for use in cases of epilepsy and this product can be prescribed by a physician. There are many hemp and CBD products on the market, and individuals are self-prescribing these products for things such as pain management, anxiety, sleep disorders, and autism, even though CBD has not been scientifically proven or approved for use with these conditions. Users of these products will test positive for THC during employer random narcotics screening and their employment may be terminated for unlawful drug use. A narcotics screening only tests for the presence of THC, not the percentage of THC.

Possible Solutions

The North Carolina Farm Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 315), which was filed on March 20, 2019, formalizes NC's industrial Hemp program and the industrial Hemp Commission moving forward. This bill adds Chapter 106-568.67, which requires no license to possess, handle, transport, or sell hemp products or extracts. This bill modifies the definition of marijuana in Chapter 90-87 to exclude hemp, hemp products, or hemp extracts.

The unintended consequence upon passage of this bill is that marijuana will be legalized in NC because law enforcement cannot distinguish between hemp and marijuana and prosecutors could not prove the difference in court. Every quantity of hemp and/or marijuana is important for police investigations, from the cigarette to the "dime" bag to a bale.

There are several possible solutions which allow farmers in NC to grow industrial hemp, but also allow the criminal justice system to continue to seize marijuana, and charge and prosecute marijuana offenses. Below is a listing of possible solutions:

- 1) Limit the varieties of hemp that can be grown in NC to those which are used in rope, clothing, and paper. Do not allow the variety of hemp that produces "buds" similar to marijuana.
- 2) Modify the definition of marijuana in 90-87(16) as follows:

(16) "Marijuana" means all parts of the plant of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin, but shall not include the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil, or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination. The term does not include industrial hemp as defined in G.S. 106-568.51, when the industrial hemp is produced in compliance with rules issued by the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission and provided to a processor. The possession or sale of hemp in any other circumstance, unless in lawful possession pursuant to the North Carolina Epilepsy Act, is unlawful.

In addition to 1) and 2), the following conditions are warranted:

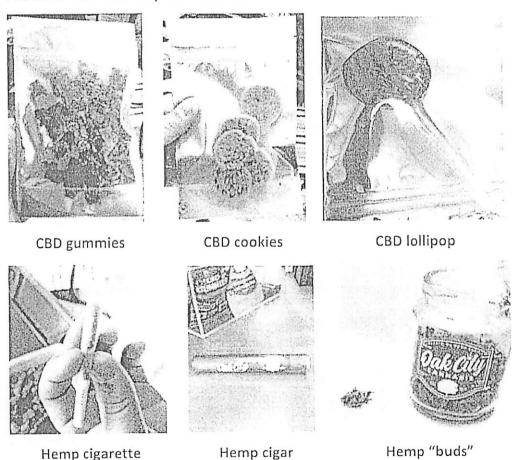
- An individual must be 18 or older to purchase or possess hemp, hemp extract, and CBD products.
- Provide immunity for law enforcement officers who seize hemp and hemp products during the course of an investigation, even if the products fall within the legal limits of THC and CBD.
- Clarify that all paraphernalia used to smoke plant-based materials (whether hemp or marijuana) is illegal.

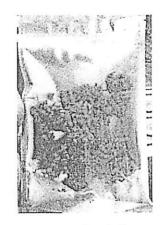
Alternative solutions may include:

- Plant based materials and plant based commercial products cannot be made in hemp processing facilities in
 NC. Only oils, baims, lotions, salves, etc. can be made in these facilities.
- Hemp in plant form cannot leave processing facilities.

- Hemp in plant form cannot be sold by processors or commercial businesses. It can only be sold by NC farmers with a license from the NC Department of Agriculture.
- Mandate that only growers and processors with a license from the NC Industrial Hemp Commission can
 possess hemp or hemp plants. Any other person who possesses hemp or hemp plants will be charged with
 possession of a Schedule VI controlled substance.
- Hemp and CBD containing edibles such as candies, gummies, lollipops, brownies, etc. cannot be sold or possessed in NC. No edible hemp and CBD food products. (this follows FDA regulations)
- Place a ban on smoking hemp, hemp products, hemp extracts, and CBD products.
- Regulate CBD oils to ensure they oils sold in NC are produced by NC farmers, tested by the Department of Ag
 to fall within legal limits of THC and CBD. The oil products could have a label and tax stamp. Any CBD
 products without this tax stamp would be illegal to manufacture, sell, or possess.
- Place a tax stamp on all hemp grown in NC and CBD products manufactured in NC. This stamp could go on all products by NC licensed growers and processors. This tax stamp would allow for the product to be followed from the field to the processor to the store. It would ensure that hemp grown by NC farmers is being sold to NC processors, and then sold in NC retail stores. It also ensures that the products fall within the legal THC limits. Any hemp and CBD products without the tax stamp would be illegal to manufacture, sell, or possess.
- License hemp/CBD retail stores in NC. A store must be on the approved list to sell hemp and CBD products.
- Add Epidiolex to Schedule V so it can be prescribed by physicians in NC. This is an FDA approved pharmaceutical form of CBD which is already a Federal Schedule V controlled substance.

Photos of Commercially Sold Products









Hemp "buds"

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION FILE #: 20-CRS-51122, 51123, & 51124

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

ν.

ORDER ON DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO SUPPRESS

JAQUALYN ROBINSON,

Defendant.

THIS MATTER came before the undersigned Superior Court Judge in and for the County of New Hanover on defendant's motion to suppress on the 29th day of October, 2020. The Court having reviewed the motion, having heard the evidence presented and the arguments of counsel finds:

- 1. That on or about February 5, 2020 Officer Ben Galluppi was on routine patrol in the area of Dawson Street and 11th in the City of Wilmington.
- 2. Officer Galluppi was stationary when he saw a blue Chrysler 300 drive by on Dawson Street that had extremely dark tint on the windows which he believed were in violation of the statute.
- 3. Officer Galluppi pursued the vehicle and activated his blue lights. The vehicle pulled over near 15th.
- 4. Upon approaching the vehicle, Officer Galluppi detected what he believed to be an odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle.
- 5. The defendant was the driver of the vehicle. He had no license but provided his vehicle registration.
- 6. Officer Galluppi requested back up to assist in a potential search of the vehicle.
- 7. Officer Galluppi returned to the defendant's vehicle when back up arrived and removed the defendant from the vehicle. The defendant was taken to the patrol car and placed in the front seat.
- 8. Officer Galluppi then questioned the defendant about his license status and defendant answered those questions. The defendant was not advised of his Miranda rights.

- 9. Officer Galluppi then conducted a search of the vehicle with the assistance of another officer. The search revealed a handgun in the console and a non-descript pill under the back seat.
- 10. The defendant was then placed under arrest and transported to the Wilmington Police Department for processing. While at the police department, the defendant was strip searched. While removing his clothing, a plastic pouch fell from defendant's pants which contained two separate baggies; one containing a green leafy substance and the other containing a white rock like substance.
- 11. The Court took judicial notice of a State Bureau of Investigations bulletin regarding the similarities of marijuana and hemp. The court took judicial notice of the bulletin only to the extent that physical properties and characteristics of the two plants were discussed. Legal conclusions and opinions contained in that bulletin were disregarded as the State Bureau of Investigation does not have legal authority to issue binding opinions on the sufficiency of evidence to establish probable cause. Marijuana and hemp share very similar physical characteristics and it is difficult to tell one from the other either by appearance or by smell.

Based on the forgoing findings of fact, the Court concludes as a matter of law:

- 1. That Officer Galluppi had reasonable suspicion for the stop of the vehicle based on the possible window tint violation.
- 2. That the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle provided sufficient probable cause for a warrantless search of the vehicle under the automobile exception to the Fourth Amendment warrant requirement.
- 3. The fact that marijuana and hemp share similar characteristics and have a similar odor does not negate the ability of law enforcement to use the odor of a potentially controlled substance as a sufficient basis to establish probable cause for the warrantless search of a vehicle. Marijuana is still an illegal substance in this state.
- 4. Officer Galluppi's questioning of the defendant after the defendant was placed in the patrol car constituted a custodial interrogation.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the defendant's motion to suppress is denied as to the evidence seized. The motion is granted as to the statements made by the defendant after he was placed in Officer Galluppi's patrol vehicle.

This the 28th day of October, 2020.

R. Kent Harrell

Superior Court Judge Presiding

		•		
STATE OF	NORTH	CAROLINA	File No. 20 CR\$51122 - 51124	
NEW	HANOVER	County	In The General Cou	rt Of Justice r Court Division
	STATE	E VERSUS		
Name Of Defendant JAQUALYN RO	DINGON		TRANSCRIPT OF PL	.EA
DOB	Age	Highest Level Of Education Completed	-	
08/29/1996	23	1245 grade		S. 15A-1022, 15A-1022.1
☐ The plea arra	ngement set fo	en the Court is rejecting the plee arrang orth within this transcript is hereby r n or after December 1, 2009.)	ement. ejected and the clerk shall place this form in the ca	se file. (Applies to
Date	Name Of Pres	siding Judge (type or print)	Signature Of Presiding Judge	
The undersigned (2) entered a ple questions set ou	a of 🗵 guilt		lly in open court, finds that the defendant (1) was disision ☐ no contest, and (3) offered the following	answers to the
				Answers
•		d understand me?		(1) <u>Yes</u>
2. Do you ur against yo		you have the right to remain silent	and that any statement you make may be used	(2) <u>Yes</u>
• •		you read and write?		(3) 124h gado
4. (a) Are ye	ou now using o	or consuming alcohol, drugs, narcot	ics, medicines, pills, or any other substances?	(4a) <u>Vo</u>
(b) When	was the last ti	me you used or consumed any suc	ch substance?	(4b) <u>B months</u>
(c) How I	ong have you l	been using or consuming this medi	cation or substance?	(4c) 3 yeans
(d) Do yo	u believe your	mind is clear, and do you understa	nd what you are doing in this hearing?	(4d) <u>Yes</u>
		explained to you by your lawyer, ar every element of each charge?	nd do you understand the nature of the charges,	(5) <u>Yes</u>
6. (a) Have	you and your l	awyer discussed the possible defer	nses, if any, to the charges?	(6a) <u>Yes</u>
(b) Are ye	ou satisfied wit	h your lawyer's legal services?		(6b) <u>UYS</u>
		that you have the right to plead not		(7a) <u>Yes</u>
	u understand t st you?	that at such trial you have the right	to confront and to cross examine witnesses	(7b) <u>Yes</u>
(c) Do yo jury tr		that by your plea(s) you give up the	se and other important constitutional rights to a	(7c) <u>Yes</u>
no contes	t may result in		d States of America, your plea(s) of guilty or your exclusion from admission to this country,	(8) <u>Yes</u>
		upon conviction of a felony you ma ation is revoked?	y forfeit any State licensing privileges you have in .	(9) <u>Yes</u>
10. Do you ur	nderstand that	following a plea of guilty or no cont	est there are limitations on your right to appeal?	(10) <u>Yes</u>
		your plea of guilty may impact how r, skin tissue) will be preserved?	long biological evidence related to your case	(11) <u>Yes</u>

代政群	charges shown be	34. F. 11.	LE TOURS CHAINEDS, NOT		PLEAS	The state of the	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	aryas GE	Mary E	- K	: SERVEDS	
Plea	* File Number	Count	Take the second	Offense(s)	LLAU	Date Of Offense OR Date Range	G.S.	1	CL.	‡Pun.	Maximum	
G	20 CR 51123	No.(s)	FELONY POS		OCAINE	Of Offense 02/05/2020	No. 90-95(d)(2)	F	ī	CL.	Punishment 24 MOS.	
6	20C/51122			_	•)		•			4
1	20051122	T	Cornying	Concelect	tion (m)	2 5 2020	14-269	W	2		60 gays	, ©
	attached AOC-0											• • • 1
NC =	uilty GA = Alford plea	10	TAL MAXIMUM		IT P					24	MONTHS	4 (0
	NDATORY MININ E TO CLERK: //			······································	d offense or re	duced charge						(M)
	: Enter punishment of						tatus or enhancem	ent).				
13.	Do you now perso I just described?			guilty purs		no contest	to the charges		(13)	Yes	
	⊠ (a) Are you in t	act gui	lty?						(14	4a)	Yes	
		ner or n	you understand ot you admit tha			ntest, you will be	treated as being		(14	4b)	N/A	
	(c) (Alford guilty (1) Do you		nsider it to be in	vour best intere	est to plead qui	Ity to the charges	s I just described	?	(14	c1)_	N/A	
	(2) Do you	unders	tand that, upon y	our " <i>Alford</i> guilt	-	ill be treated as b	-		(14	c2) _	N/A	
<u>]</u> 15.	Use if aggravating i		nit that you are in are listed below) Ha	• •	d the existence	of the following	aggravating fact	ors:	(15)	N/A	
	have you agreed agreed that the Co	ourt ma	y accept your ac	Imission to these	e factors, and	do you 🗌 und	erstand that you	_				
746	are waiving any near agree that the	State h	as provided you	with appropriate	notice about	these aggravating	g factors?	nta	,	16)		
<u> </u>	(Use if sentencing p not related to prior parole, or post-rel offense commi evidence to suppoyour admission to that the State may with the appropria	r convidence set to convice the set of the s	ctions:	nse committed volfense committe offense committe of management a correctional a reasonable do un understates sentencing pages.	while on superved while servirul institution, bubt, have you and that you a points	vised or unsuperving a sentence of have you agreed agreed that the free waiving any no	rised probation, imprisonment I that there is Court may accep otice requirement	t t	(
] 17.	(Use if No. 15 or 16 determine the exist convictions that m constitutional righ	selected stence ay app	d above) Do you u of any aggravatir ly to your case b	understand that ng factors and a eyond a reason	at a jury trial ye ny additional s	entencing points	not related to pr	ior this	(17)	·····	
18.	Do you understan		ou also have the			aring to prove to t	he Court the		(18)	Yes	
	existence of any r	ınıyauı	ig iactors that in	ay apply to your	04301							

STATE VERSUS	File No. 20 CR 51122 - 51124	1	
Name Of Defendant JAQUALYN ROBINSON			
	contest as part of a plea	(20)	Yes
21. The prosecutor, your lawyer and you have informed the Court that these are your plea:	•		
PLEA ARRANGEMENT	\$ \$ \times_25		
The Defendant shall plead guilty to the offense as listed and will receive a suspende placed on supervised probation for a term of 12 months, enroll in and successfully of recommendations, complete 24 hours of community service, be subject to frequent the Division of Community Corrections, and forfeit the firearm seized in these cases charges.	complete the TASC program and drug screens and warrant-less sea	follow all rches conduc	cted by
 ☑ The State dismisses the charge(s) set out on Page Two, Side Two, of this transc ☑ The defendant stipulates to restitution to the party(ies) in the amounts set out on Sentencing)* (AOC-CR-611). 22. Is the plea arrangement as set forth within this transcript and as I have just d 	"Restitution Worksheet, Notice A	nd Order (Ini	itial Yes
being your full plea arrangement?	•		
23. Do you now personally accept this arrangement?		(23)	Yes
24. (Other than the plea arrangement between you and the prosecutor) has anyone professional threatened you in any way to cause you to enter this plea against your wishes		(24)	No
25. Do you enter this plea of your own free will, and do you fully understand wha	t you are doing?	(25)	Yes
26. Do you agree that there are facts to support your plea and admission to and sentencing points not related to prior convictions, and do you consensummary of the evidence?		(26)	Yes
27. Do you have any questions about what has just been said to you or about an case?	ything else connected to your	(27)	No
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY DEFE	NDANT		., .:3
I have read or have heard all of these questions and understand them. The answers are true and accurate. No one has told me to give false answers in order to have the conditions of the plea as stated within this transcript, if any, are accurate.			
SWORN/AFFIRMED AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME 10.	29.2000		•
Date Signature Signature Signature Of Date Signature Of Date Signature	endant		•.
Deputy CSC Assistant CSC Clerk Of Superior Court JAQUALYN R	***		
CERTIFICATION BY LAWYER FOR D	EFENDANT	••	
I hereby certify that the terms and conditions stated within this transcript, if any, upon and they are agreed to by the defendant and myself. I further certify that I have fully the charges to which the defendant is pleading, and the aggravating and mitigating	explained to the defendant the n	ature and ele	ements o
Date Name Of Lawyer For Defendant (type or print) Signature Of Lawy NICCOYA D DOBSON	yer For Defendant		
CERTIFICATION BY PROSECU		·	
As prosecutor for this Prosecutorial District, I hereby certify that the conditions state conditions agreed to by the defendant and his/her lawyer and myself for the entry of	f the plea by the defendant to the	the terms an charges in th	id nis case.
Date Name Of Prosecutor (type or print) ALEXANDRIA J. PALEMBE VAN J.	ecutor		
AOd-CR-800, Page Two, Rev. 5/18 © 2018 Administrative Office of the Courts (Over)			

	Land Table	PLEA ADJUDICAT	ON	
			red, answers of the defendant, sta	tements of the lawyer for
	•	or, the undersigned finds that:		
i			to aggravating factors and/or sentencin	ng points);
t	satisfied with his/her la	-		
1	competent to stand tria		he aggravating factors and/or poin	te. The defendant has
	to the aggravating fact		ne aggravating lactors and/or point	its, The delendant has
5. The plea (and adn	nission) is the informed	choice of the defendant and is	made freely, voluntarily and unders	standingly.
The defendant's plea (ar	nd admission) is hereby	accepted by the Court and is or	dered recorded.	
Date Name	e Of Presiding Judge (type o	print) Signature (Presiding stronge	2/11
(0)29/20	K. Kent	Handl		Decision of the control of the contr
学生	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	T DISMISSALS PURSUAN	T TO PLEA ARRANGEMENT	是""。
File No.	Count No.(s)		Offense(s)	
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	1	K.))
	SUPERIOR (W)	(المحراه المحراه		
	-DISTRICT COUR	T DISMISSALS PURSUAN	T TO PLEA ARRANGEMENT	
Flie No.	Count No.(s)		Offense(s)	
20 CR\$51122	Ī	WINDOW TINTING VIOLA	TION	
2 0 CR-5112 2	-H-	CARRYING-CONCEALED	JUN (M) (W)	
20 CR 5 51122	III	POSSESSION MDMA		
20 CR 51123	I	DWLR NOT IMPAIRED RE	VOCATION	
20 CR 5 51123	III	POSSESS MARIJUANA UP	TO 1/2 OUNCE	
20 CR 3 51124	I	PWISD COCAINE		
20 CR 5 51124	II	M/S/D/P CS WITHIN 1,000 I	EET OF PARK	
20 CR 61124	III	M/S/D/P CS WITHIN 1,000 F	EET SCHOOL	,
		•		
		•		
1	1			

CERTIFICATION BY PROSECUTOR The undersigned prosecutor enters a dismissal to the above charges pursuant to a plea arrangement shown on this Transcript Of Plea.

Name Of Prosecutor (type or print)

ALEXANDRIVA-J.-RALOMBO VAN TA

AOC-CR-300, Page Two, Side Two, Rev. 5/18 © 2018 Administrative Office of the Courts

STATE C	OF NO	PRTH CA			PON	-	File		RS051123	- ·-· -	52	
		County for DWI offense(s).		VILMINGT		Seat of Court		In The Ge	eneral Cou		stice	
<u> </u>		STATE VER				11.15	GMENT SU		Superio			
Name Of Defenden			1303	-			ISHMENT: [2					
ROBINSON, JA	QUALY	N Sex		LOsts Of Bi	16.	_	(STRI	JCTURED 8	SENTENC	ING)		-
В		M M		Date Of Bit 08	/29/1996	(F	or Offenses (Committed C G.S. 15A	On Or After <u>\-1341, -1342</u>	Dec. 1, 2, - 1343,	2016) -1343.2	2, -1346
Attorney For State WILLIAM B V	A NI TO IC	<u>. </u>		Def. Found Not Indigent	Def. Waive			•	Х Арро	ointed C	rt Rptr Ir	nitials
		guilty/responsib	le, cursu	-			D DOBSON of no con	test) trial	by judge	trial by	Ri	
File No.(s)	Off.		Of	fense Desc	ription		Offense Da		S. No.	F/M		Pun. CL.
20CRS051123	52	FELONY POS					02/05/202	0 90-	95(D)(2)	F	I	
20CRS051122	52	CARRYING C					02/05/202		-269(A1)	M	2	
The Court [X] 1. F	nas detern Any prior trier of far makes no	class if different from nined, pursuant to record level point at beyond a reason prior record level or 2 MUST be chec	G.S. 15/ under G. nable doo finding b	A-1340.14, t .S. 15A-134 ubt or the de	the prior record 0.14(b)(7) is ba efendant's adm	points of the d sed on the det	efendant to be _ ermination of thi	02	PRIOR RECOF LEVEL	ω⊠π	IV III	
2. makes th 3. makes th 4. finds the 5. adjudges	ee Determine ee Finding defendant the defeitual breat ancement above-cate above-cate a sis an official by G.S. committee as to by the tabove-dees committee and a coourt finds a the defeit this was G.S. 15A	ense involving as . 50B-1 (b) with the on or after Dec. 1, befendant was a crier of fact beyons signated offense(sed on or after Dec. 1 and the agreement with the agreement and offense involutional discharged or after the agreement and offense involutional discharged or discharged	vating an ry Mitiga ubstantlisk only on g status [G.S. Inor). Issue by e(s) is a lib., Page (s) in volve imposes commoder of the seault, come victim and a reass) involve (r, 2017, only only only only only only only only	and mitigating tion set fort all assistance of the policy of the trier of the special motor of the trier of the special motor of the spe	g factors on the on the attack pursuant to bitual felon to be sentenced (drugs). fact beyond a conviction unconviction un	e attached AC hed AOC-CR- G.S. 90-95(h) be sentenced d as a Class E G.S. 14-3(c) reasonable de er G.S. 14-20 kes the additio physical probation set as used in the an act defined vas committed vas committed vas defined in G nefendant's adm committed Dec. 4-50.25. check all that ap offender is ina g the felony. C rolving assault	OC-CR-605. 606. (5). four classes his felon. (hate crime). Coubt or the defice on the defice on the refoon of the defice on the commission of the G.S. 50B-1 as part of crim. S. 14-50.16A(nic.). 1, 2016 - Nov. 30, ply) the depropriate for a commission of the attraction of the defice of the commission.	gher than the particle of the offense au (a), and the de linal gang activa). This finding 2017) criminal sefendant refuse conditional discontes as defined	orincipal felor 1 (domestic vicesion. a special conce a attached AG se of a minor. R-603D, Pag nd that it shale fendant had rity as defined is based on treet gang act ed to consent tharge for fact in G.S. 508-	olence). This dittions of DC-CR-61 Two, Sill be repoil a personal in G.S. the deter livity i. ors related	er than of a finding probation in the first	Class C). g is on set e Two. onship 6A(2) on of
consolidated for	judgmen	ered evidence, a t and the defend	ant be in	s of counse prisoned	and stateme	nt of defendar	it, Orders that t	ine above offer	ises, it more	than one,	, be	
for a minimum te		4 month n at the expiratio			maximum tern		months in th	ne custody of th	ne N.C. DAC	JJ.		
The defendant s toward the	hall be g sentenc	ven credit for e imposed above	16 . □ir	_ days spe mprisonmer SU	nt in confinem nt required for ISPENSIOI	ent prior to the special proba		AOC-CR-603	esult of this o).	to be a	pplied
Subject to the co	onditions 12	set out below, th months.	e execut	tion of this s	sentence is su	spended and	the defendant i	s placed on	xupervise x	ıd 🔲 u	nsupen	vised
1. The Cou	rt finds th	at a longer		norter pe	riod of probati	on is necessa	y than that whi	ich is specified	In G.S. 15A-	1343.2(d)).	
2. The Cou G.S. 15A	rt finds tr 1343.2(at it is NOT appres) for community	opriate to punishn	o delegate nent or G.S	to the Section 5. 15A-1343.2(of Community f) for intermed	/ Corrections th iate punishmer	ne authority to i nt.	impose any o	of the requ	iremen	its in
3. This period	od of pro	bation shall begin	Offense	hen the def	endant is relea	sed from inca		Court				e below.
		all comply with th									L	·
X 5. The defe		all provide a DNA					<u> </u>	. ;		• .		
The defendant s probation above		o the Clerk of Su	perior C	ourt the "To	otal Amount D	CONDITION Ue" shown belofficer.	ow, plus the preset out by the c	obation superv	ision fee if pl	aced on s	upervis	sed
\$ 532.50 \$	ne	Restitution*	\$	ey's Fees 270.00	Comm Serv F \$ 0.00	\$ 0.0		00 \$ 6	0.00	Total Amo	unt Due 862.50	
		n Worksheet, No		Order (Initi) <u>" AOC-CR-61</u>	1, which is inco	orporated by re				-
Upon payme	nt of the	ause to waive co: Total Amount Di //17 @ 2017 Adm	ue," the p	probation of Material opposi	fficer may tran	AOC-CR- sfer the defen res is to be disrega Over)	618. UOthed and to unsuperded as surplusage.	ervised probation	on.			··

· 18		a	ECILI AR COND	ITIONS OF D	000/	TION 00 454	40.40/	. —		
	obstionary lu	dament may be e	XEGULAR COND	15A-1342 The det	endant	ATION - G.S. 15A- shall: (1) Commit no crimi	-1343(E))	indiction (2) Donne	
explosive gavi	ce, or other d	eadly weapon list	led in G.S. 14-269. (3) R	emain asinfully and	suitably	employed or feithfully our	100 0 01121	rea of etud	y or vecational train	no that will
taking of digitiz	ncant for suit ed photogra	able employment, ohs. including pho	, and abide by all rules o stographs of the defenda	f the institution. (4) t	Satisfy c	hild support and family ob tattoos, to be included in	oligations,	as required	d by the Court. (5) S	ubmit to the
if the defendar	nt is on sucer	vised probation, t	he defendant shali also:	(6) Not abscond, by	willfully	avoiding supervision or hi	v willfully o	nakina the	defendant's whores	bouts
unknown to the	a supervising	probation officer.	(7) Remain within the ju	risdiction of the Cou	rl unles:	s granted written permissi places and in a reasonable	ion to leav	hu the Co	ourt or the probation	officer
times, answer	ali reasonabi	e inquiries by the	officer and obtain prior a	approval from the off	icer for.	and notify the officer of a	inv change	in addres	e or employment 10	1 Motifu
ine probation (Alicer if the d	efendant fails to o	obtain or retain satisfacto	rv emplovment. (10)	Submit	at reasonable times to wa	errentiess	searches I	ny a probation office	r of the
I not be required	d to submit to	any other search	i that would otherwise be	unlawful. (11) Subr	nit to wa	or purposes directly relate mantless searches by a la	aw enforce	ment office	er of the defendant's	narean and of
l tue astevasut.	s venicle, upo	on a reasonable s	uspicion that the defend	ant is engaged in cri	minal a	ctivity or is in possession o	of a fineam	o explosiv	e device or other de	noncow ulhas
defendant by a	a licensed phy	ysician and is in th	he original container with	the prescription nu	nber aff	rillegal drug or controlled ixed on it; not knowingly a	associate v	vith any kn	own or proviously of	and holian
possessors, or	sellers of an	y such illegaf drug	gs or controlled substance	es: and not knowing	ılv be cı	esent at or frequent any n	olace wher	e such ille:	llesteen te enunh fer	ad euhelancae
probation offic	er for purposi	es directly related	to the probation supervi	sion. If the results of	the ana	presence of prohibited di slysis are positive, the pro-	hationer n	av he reni	tired to reimburee th	a Division of
Adult Correction	in and Juven	ile Justice for the .	actual costs of drug or a	lcohol screening and	i testing	. (14) Waive all rights rela	sting to ext	radition pro	ceedings if taken in	to custody
			the conditions imposed		iolones	and therefore well	45			
attacl	ed AOC-C	R-603D, Page	Two, Side Two.	scis of domestic v	TOTETICE	and therefore makes	tne addit	ionai findi	ings and orders o	n the
		S	PECIAL CONDI	TIONS OF PR	OBAT	TION - G.S. 15A-1	343(b1) .	11 AT	13 42
The defenda	nt shall also	comply with the	e following special co	nditions which the	e Courl	finds are reasonably r	related to	the defe	ndant's rehabilitat	ion:
a mo	or vehicle f	or a period of _	rs license to the Clen	or Supenor Cour Intil relicensed by	the Di	insmittal/notification to vision of Motor Vehicle	the Divis	ion of Mo	tor Vehicles and	not operate
🔲 17. Succ	essfully pas	s the General E	Education Developme	nt Test (G.E.D.) d	lurina ti	ne first ma	onths of	he nerior	of probation	
[] 18. Comp	olete	hours of	community service d	uring the first		days of the period of	f probatio	n, as dire	ected by the judici	al services
			by G.S. 143B-708 is ed in a case adjudica	ted during the ear	na torm	of court				
	be paid	pursuant to	the schedule set out	under Monetary C	Condition	ns on the reverse.	within		days of this J	udament
		ning service.	7.A.S.C			_	_			
partic	in ior inilial i ipate in all f	evaluation by <u>T</u> outher evaluation	on, counseling, treatm	ent or education	nronra	ms recommended as a	o rocult o	f that ava	luction and com-	the serials and
other	therapeutic	requirements of	of those programs un	il discharged.				i illai eva	idation, and comp	ny with ati
∐ 20. Not a	ssault, thre	aten, harass, be	found in or on the p	emises or workpl	ace of,	or have any contact w	ith			·
page	act include '. gift-giving	s any delendar . telefacsimile n	nachine or through ar	ect or indirect, by No other nerson e	any m xcent	eans, including, but no	at limited	lo, teleph	one, personal cor	itact, e-mail,
🔲 21. Absta	in from alco	shel consumption	on and submit to cont	inuous alcohol mo	nitorin	g for a period of		days.	months, the	Court having
found 22. Other	that a subs	stance abuse as	ssessment has identif	ied defendant's a	lcohol d	dependency or chronic	abuse.	_ •		•
COI	ÜRT OR	DERS THE	E FIREARM TE	IAT WAS S	EIZE	D TO BE SURR	ENDE	RED	CO WPD FO	RIIGE
SAI	E, OR T	TRADESI	EIZED CONTR	ABAND TO	BE I	DESTROYED	COUR	T FUR	THER WAL	VES
CO	MMUNI	TY SERVI	CE FEE May	transfer to U	NIOI	N County for sup	ervisio	n.		1 20
,			•							
☐ 23 Comp	lu with tha	Canalal Candilla	nna Of Bash - ti wild							
25. 00111	3 3		ons Of Probation which							
		``				PPEAL ENTRIES				
office	r cause the	defendant to be	e delivered with these	copies to the cus	tody of	d Commitment to the s the agency named on	snenn or a	otner qua erse to se	lined officer and t rve the sentence i	hat the imposed or
until t	ne detenda	nt shall have co	mplied with the cond	tions of release p	endina	appeal.				-
2. Ine d	efendant gi ction releas	ves notice of ap	ppeal from the judgment on form AOC-CR-350	ent of the trial cou	rt to the	Appellate Division. A	ppeal en	ries and	any conditions of	post
1	- 3		7.36 :	SIGNATURE	OF J	UDGE	` ; ; ; ; ;	····	~ ~ ·	* * * C (*) * *
Date		Name Of Presid	ding Judge (type or print		<u> </u>	Signature Of Presiding	Judge			
10/29/			RABLE RICHARD	KENT HARREL	L			~	land	
				CERTIFIC				(1)		
I certify that t	his Judgme	nt and the attac	chment(s) marked be	ow is a true and o		te copy of the original v				
2. Judar	nent Suspe	(AOC-CR-350) nding Sentence) ∋ (AOC-CR-603D, Pa	ge Two)	⊢ 6.	Judicial Findings As T	o Requir	ed DNA	Sample (AOC-CR	-319)
(addit	ional condit	ions of probatio	on)	·	ц "	Judicial Findings And Sentence (AOC-CR-6	oraer ho 15. Side	ir sex Of Twol	renaers - Suspend	360
3. Felon	y Judgmen -CR-605)	t Findings Of Ag	ggravating And Mitiga	ting Factors	8.	Convicted Sex Offend	ier Perma	anent No	Contact Order (A	OC-CR-620)
🔲 4. Extra	ordinary Mit	igation Findings	s (AOC-CR-606)		9.	Additional File No.(s)	And Offe	nse(s) (A	OC-CR-626)	
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	-		ST	AT	E VERSU	S				File No	20CRS05	1123	-	52	
	f Defendant NSON,JAOUAI	VN													
NOTE	Use this page AOC-CR-619 "Conditional I Discharge Un Dec. 1, 2016.	with AOC D, "Condi Discharge der G.S.	ttional Dis Under G	.S.	irge Under (90-96(a1)": /	3.S. 90-96(a)"; A AOC-CR-628D. '	CC-CR-6 'Condition	i21D, "Co nai Disch	ondii arae	tional Disch: Under G.S	ludgment Susper arge Under G.S. . 14-204(b)"; AO 1341(a5)"; for of	14-50.29 C-CR-63	9°; AOC- 32D, "Co	CR-6	27D,
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□ 5.	Abstain from all found that a su	cohol con	sumption	an	d submit to o	eg, or treatment a continuous alcoh entified defendar evelopment prog	ol monito	ring for a			days, abuse.	☐ m	onths, th	e Co	urt having
7.	Submit to satel	lite-based	monitori	ng,	if required o	n the attached A	OC-CR-6	15, Side	Two	o					············
1	tion to complete	ni		•		INTERMEDIA					1		, i · .		
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□ 2.	Comply with th	e rules ac	lopted for	r the	program as		Article 62				neral Statutes an Iment programs.	d report	t on a reç	ular	basis for a
•, *	7.		INTER	ME	DIATE C	ONDITIONS	OF PR	OBATI	ON	S - G.S. 1	5A-1343(b4)				•

If subject to intermediate punishment, the defendant shall, in addition to the terms and conditions imposed above, comply with the following intermediate conditions of probation.

(1) If required by the defendant's probation officer, perform community service under the supervision of the Section of Community Corrections, and pay the fee required by G.S. 143B-708, but no fee shall be due if the Court imposed community service as a special condition of probation and assessed the fee in this judgment or any judgment for an offense adjudicated in the same term of court. (2) Not use, possess, or control alcohol. (3) Remain within the defendant's country of residence unless granted written permission to leave by the court or the defendant's probation officer. (4) Participate in any evaluation, counseling, treatment, or educational program as directed by the probation officer, keeping all appointments by abiding by the rules, regulations, and direction of each program.

Material opposite unmarked squares is to be disregarded as surplusage. (Over)

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1
                 2020, and resumed at 10:47 a.m., Friday,
 2
                 October 30, 2020.)
 3
                MS. DOBSON:
                              Judge, if I -- if we may address a
 4
      matter from yesterday's calendar?
 5
                 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.
 6
                MS. DOBSON:
                              In the matter of Jaqualyn Robinson --
 7
      and, for the record, it's going to be file
 8
     Nos. 20-CRS-51122, 51123, 51124.
 9
                 Judge, at this time, I would like to enter a
10
     notice of appeal and would ask the Court to consider
11
      appointing Mr. Robinson an appellate defender.
12
                 THE COURT:
                             All right. You're going to appeal the
13
      guilty plea?
14
                MS. DOBSON:
                              Judge, it's my understanding that I
15
     have to appeal the entire judgment.
16
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay.
17
                 (Pause.)
18
                 THE COURT:
                             All right. Have you got your notice
19
      of appeal?
20
                MS. DOBSON:
                              Judge, I actually do have a motion,
21
      and I can go grab that and bring that over, yes, sir.
22
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay. All right. If you want to file
23
      that notice of appeal, I'll sign a notice of appellate entry
24
      to have the court reporter prepare a transcript, and I'll
25
      appoint the Appellate Defender's Office to represent the
```

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER NOV -2 A 8: 02 CRS 51122 - 51124 STATE OF NORTH CAROLENA NOVER CO., C.S.C.

٧.

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM APPOINTMENT OF APPELLATE

JAQUALYN ROBINSON,

Defendant.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

NOW COMES the Defendant by and through counsel, Niccoya D. Dobson, Assistant Public Defender, and hereby gives notice of appeal to the North Carolina Court of Appeals from a Superior Court judgment on October 29, 2020 where the Defendant was convicted of Possession of Cocaine and Carrying Concealed Gun and was given a suspended sentence of four to fourteen months and placed on supervised probation for a term of twelve months with the following terms and conditions of supervised probation: enroll in and successfully complete the TASC program and complete twenty-four hours of community service. Counsel moves the Court for an Order appointing Appellate Defender to assume responsibility on this case. Defendant is indigent, qualified for appointed counsel in Superior Court, and his financial circumstances have not changed.

This the 30 day of October 2020.

Assistant Public Defender 320 Chestnut Street, Suite 201

Post Office Box 2560 Wilmington, NC 28402

Phone: (910) 343-5428

Attorney for the Defendant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney does hereby certify that she caused to be served a copy of the foregoing document to the last known address of the Defendant and to District Attorney's Office via hand delivery addressed to the following:

William B. Van Trigt Assistant District Attorney 316 Princess Street, Suite 543 Wilmington, NC 28401

This the 30 day of October 2020.

Miccova D Dobson

Assistant Public Defender 320 Chestnut Street, Suite 201

Post Office Box 2560 Wilmington, NC 28402

Phone: (910) 343-5428

Attorney for the Defendant

STATE OF	NORTH CAR	DLINA	File No.	20crs-51122	
NEW I	IANOVER	Coumbu	Additional File No.(s)	20 51122 20 5112	
- 11541	IANO V BR	County		20crs-51123 20crs-5112 In The General Cou	
			···		or Court Division
	STATE VERSU	<u>IS</u>			
Name Of Defendant JAQUALYN ROE	BINSON			APPELLATE ENTRI	ES
Date(s) Of Trial JUDGMENT ENT	ERED 10/29/2020			37, 9, 11, and 27 of the N.C. Rule	s of Appellate Procedure
Codefendant(s) If Tried	lointly			f Defendant's Trial Counsel BSON, PUBLIC DEFENDER	
				STREET, STE 201	
l			WILMINGTON,	, NC 28402	
Name And Address Of T			Telephone No.	Email Address	
WILLIAM VAN 1 316 PRINCESS ST			910-343-5400		
WILMINGTON, 1	•		Name And Address Of	f Defendant's Trial Counsel	
Telephone No.	Email Address		1		
910-772-6610 Name And Address Of T	idel Temposialionisi				
RANAE MCDERI			Telephone No.	Email Address	
PO BOX 1114	DEAGU NG 00400		Name And Address Of	f Defendant's Appellate Counsel	
WRIGHTSVILLE	BEACH, NC 28480		★ The Appellate	te Defender (919) 354	
	Email Address			Street, Suite 500, Durham, tappeals are assigned to the App	
919-602-2110 Name And Address Of T		OTT@NCCOURTS.ORG	Retained App		onato Dorondor.
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2. Release of \$	of the defendant pursuan	t to G.S. 15A-536 is		•	no in the amount
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■ 4. (NOTE: Counse	Check in all cases where	defendant is indigent.) The defendant is allowed to app	efendant is indigent	t and has requested a transcript	and the appointment
a. The C	office of Indigent Defense dant's brief.	Services shall pay the costs	of producing a tran	nscript, and of reproducing the re	ecord and the
b. The A	ppellate Defender is app fice of Indigent Defense	ointed to perfect the defenda Services.	ent's appeal or assig	n other appellate counsel pursu	ant to rules issued by
c. Upon	request, the Clerk shall t		nder, or to alternate	counsel designated by the Appe	ellate Defender, a
	•	· •	•	ed, the Clerk shall order from the	e transcriptionist(s) a
	ript of all parts of the pro				
Original-File	Copy-Transcriptionist(s) Copy	-Defendant's Trial Counsel Copy-De	fendant's Appellate Couns	sel (or Defendant if unrepresented) Copy	-District Attorney
AOC-CR-350, Rev.		Material opposite unmarked square	s is to be disregarded as : ver)	surplusage.	-
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7.	The indigent d	efendant do	es not read	or speak	the English	language,	but read	s and/or sp	eaks his	or her nati	ve langu	age of
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8.	The Clerk sha represented b	y counsel.				the Appella	ate Defer	nder, couns	el for all	parties, or	the defe	ndant, if not
Date 1 ()/30/2020		siding Judge (ly) HARRELL	pe or print)			Signature	Of Presiding J	udge	///		
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<u> </u>			NSION OF								ļ	
☐ 1.	Extension of for good cause that the time for	shown, the	Court finds	that this	is a criminal	case that	of Appell did not r	ate Proced esult in a so	ure, upo entence	n motion of of death an	the appoint the the the the the the the the the th	ellant and RDERED
□ 2.	Extension of upon motion or appeal is exte	f the appella	ant and for go	l record ood caus	on appeal: se shown, it i	Pursuant t is ORDER	o Rules ED that t	11 and 27, he time for	N.C. Rui service	es of Appel of the propo	late Prod sed reco	cedure, ord on
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Dale		Name Of Jud	ge (type or print))			Signature	Of Judge				
		. : .	 	1.46	CERTI	FICATION	≀					
1 certify	this Appellate	Entries form	is a true and	d comple				this case.	•			<u></u> !
Dete		Signature An							<i>Дер</i>	uty CSC	Assistant	CSC
										k Of Superior	-	

Material opposite unmarked squares is to be disregarded as surplusage.

APPOINTMENT OF APPELLATE COUNSEL: O BY THE APPELLATE DEFENDER

·		2020 NOV 12 PJ 2: 36
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)	NEW HAMOVER CO., C.S.C.
v.)	BY N
JAQUALYN ROBINSON	·)	·
20 CRS 51122-51124)	
New Hanover County)	

Defendant having been convicted of a criminal offense in this action and having given notice of appeal to the North Carolina Court of Appeals, and the Trial Court having appointed the Appellate Defender as appellate counsel for the defendant, the Appellate Defender appoints the attorney named below as appellate counsel to perfect defendant's appeal, pursuant to IDS Rules, Part 3. A copy of the Court's Appellate Entries is attached to the copy of this Appointment Notice that has been transmitted to the appointed appellate counsel. The original of this Appointment Notice has been mailed to the Clerk of Superior Court for filing.

Appointed Appellate Counsel:

Sarah B. Holladay

Post Office Box 52427

Durham, North Carolina 27717 Telephone (919) 695-3127

Email sarah@holladaylawoffice.com

This the 5th day of November, 2020.

Glenn Gerding
Appellate Defender

In addition to the appointed appellate counsel named above, the Office of the Appellate Defender has provided a copy of this Appointment Notice to all parties as listed on the Appellate Entries, including the defendant and the court reporters.

ATTENTION CLERK OF COURT: File this Appointment Notice in your office. Please mail a photocopy of the complete court file(s), including any documentary exhibits, to Ms. Holladay.

State v. Williams

Court of Appeals of North Carolina

June 30, 2003, Heard in the Court of Appeals; July 1, 2003, Filed

NO. COA02-1288

Reporter

2003 N.C. App. LEXIS 1301 *

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA v. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, III, Defendant.

Notice: [*1] PURSUANT TO RULE 32(b), NORTH CAROLINA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE, THIS DECISION IS NOT FINAL UNTIL EXPIRATION OF THE TWENTY-ONE DAY REHEARING PERIOD.

[*1] THIS IS AN UNPUBLISHED OPINION. PLEASE REFER TO THE NORTH CAROLINA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE FOR CITATION OF UNPUBLISHED OPINIONS.

Subsequent History: Reported at *State v. Williams*, 582 S.E.2d 80, 2003 N.C. App. LEXIS 1316 (N.C. Ct. App., 2003)

Prior History: Forsyth County. Nos. 99 CRS 49897, 99 CRS 49898.

Disposition: Affirmed.

Counsel: Attorney General Roy Cooper, by Assistant Attorney General Donald W. Laton, for the State.

Walter T. Johnson, Jr. for defendant-appellant.

App. 40 2003 N.C. App. LEXIS 1301, *1

Judges: WYNN, Judge. Judges TYSON and STEELMAN concur.

Opinion by: WYNN

Opinion

Appeal by defendant from judgment entered 10 April 2002 by Judge William Z. Wood in Superior Court, Forsyth County. Heard in the Court of Appeals 30 June 2003.

WYNN, Judge.

By this appeal, defendant, Joseph Williams, III, asks this court to review the trial court's denial of his motion to suppress the evidence of crack cocaine found in a vehicle he was driving. We affirm the trial court's order.

The pertinent facts tend to show the following: On the evening of 15 November 1999, Officer Van Dusen observed a vehicle being driven with only [*2] its parking lights on at the intersection of Butler Street and Reynolds Park Road in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He followed and pulled the car over. Defendant was the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle.

Officer Van Dusen obtained defendant's identication and noticed that defendant was acting very nervous--shaking, stuttering, and sweating. Upon inquiry, defendant admitted his license had been revoked; told the officer that he did not have the registration for the vehicle; and that he had borrowed the license tag that was on the vehicle. Officer Van Dusen subsequently asked defendant permission to pat down his clothing for weapons, and defendant consented. Defendant explained to the officer that he was "just nervous because he drank a little bit of alcohol" that evening. The officer did not find any weapons or contraband on the defendant's person, and next asked the defendant for permission to search the vehicle that he was driving; again, defendant consented. During his search of the vehicle, the officer found crack cocaine under the right, front passenger seat, some razor blades on the floorboard of the rear passenger compartment, and some "baggies" on the backseat. As a [*3] consequence, Officer Van Dusen placed defendant under arrest.

Defendant's testimony during the suppression hearing disputed Officer Van Dusen's testimony that he agreed to a search of the vehicle he was driving. According to defendant, Officer Van Dusen never asked his permission to search the vehicle. After hearing the evidence and arguments of counsel, the trial court denied defendant's motion to suppress. Thereafter, defendant pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine by possession, trafficking in cocaine by transportation and possession of cocaine. Defendant now seeks review of the trial court's denial of his suppression motion.

$\begin{array}{c} App.~41 \\ \text{2003 N.C. App. LEXIS 1301, *3} \end{array}$

At the outset, we deny the State's motion to dismiss the defendant's appeal for failure to preserve the right to appeal from the trial court's denial of his motion to suppress. The record on appeal shows defendant excepted and objected to the court's ruling on his motion to suppress prior to the finalization of his plea bargain or entry of plea, <u>State v. Brown, 142 N.C. App. 491, 492, 543 S.E.2d 192, 193 (2001)</u>(citing <u>State v. McBride, 120 N.C. App. 623, 625, 463 S.E.2d 403, 404 (1995)</u>). ¹

[*4] It has long been recognized that the *Fourth Amendment*, made applicable to the State through the *Fourteenth Amendment*, protects the citizenry from unlawful searches and seizures. *State v. Smith, 346 N.C. 794, 798, 488 S.E.2d 210, 213 (1997)*. However, consensual searches present a "special situation excepted from the warrant requirement, and a search is not unreasonable within the meaning of the *Fourth Amendment* when lawful consent to the search is given." *Id.*; see also *N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-221* (2001)(providing that a law enforcement officer may conduct a search and seizure, without a warrant or other authorization, if consent to the search is given). Consent to search must be freely and intelligently given to ensure that the evidence obtained during that search is admissible. *State v. Graham, 149 N.C. App. 215, 218-19, 562 S.E.2d 286, 288 (2002)*. "The question whether a consent to a search was in fact 'voluntary' or was the product of duress or coercion, expressed or implied, is a question of fact to be determined from the totality of all the circumstances." *Schneckloth v. Bustamonte, 412 U.S. 218, 227, 36 L. Ed. 2d 854, 862-63, 93 S. Ct. 2041 (1973)*. [*5]

In reviewing a ruling on a motion to suppress, this Court is generally limited to a determination of "whether the trial court's findings of fact are supported by competent evidence, and whether these findings of fact support the court's conclusions of law." <u>State v. Pulliam, 139 N.C. App. 437, 439-40, 533 S.E.2d 280, 282 (2000)</u>. Here, however, our review is further limited as the defendant failed to specifically assign error to the trial court's findings. The trial court's findings are, therefore, binding upon this Court on appeal. See <u>Okwara v. Dillard Dep't Stores, Inc., 136 N.C. App. 587, 591, 525 S.E.2d 481, 484 (2000)</u> ("Where findings of fact are challenged on appeal, each contested finding of fact must be separately assigned as error, and the failure to do so results in a waiver of the right to challenge the sufficiency of the evidence to support the finding."). Therefore, we review whether the trial court's findings support its conclusions of law.

The trial court made the following pertinent findings of fact:

2. That on November 15, 1999, Winston-Salem Police Officer R.J. Van Deusen [sic], was on routine patrol and observed a vehicle stopped **[*6]** on Reynolds Park Road, Winston-Salem with just its parking lights on;

. . . .

. .

¹ Before proceeding to the substantive issue of whether the trial court erred in denying the defendant's motion to suppress, we must, however, note that there are several deficiencies in the record before the Court. While the trial court's order denying the defendant's motion to dismiss lists three file numbers--99CRS49897, -49898, and 53219, the defendant has included in the record only the indictments and judgment in two cases (99CRS49897 and -49898). Further, the defendant has only included in the record the motion to suppress filed in file number 99CRS53219, while the transcript of hearing included in the record only lists file number 99CRS49897. While confusing, and arguably violates of N.C.R. App. P. 9(a)(3), these deficiencies do not prevent, but rather limit, the Court's review of the suppression motion. The Court only has jurisdiction to review those two cases for which the defendant has included indictments and a judgment--99CRS49897 and -49898.

$$\operatorname{App.}\ 42$$ 2003 N.C. App. LEXIS 1301, *6

- 4. That the vehicle then turned left onto Butler Street and Officer Van Deusen [sic] followed said vehicle and stopped same on Butler Street as he had a lawful and valid reason to do, at approximately 7:27 p.m.;
- 5. That Officer Van Deusen [sic] was in uniform and was operating a marked patrol vehicle;
- 6. That the driver, later identified as the Defendant, began to exit the vehicle and was instructed by Officer Van Deusen [sic] to stay where he was;
- 7. That the Officer so instructed him because the defendant might attempt to flee or use a weapon;
- 8. That the Officer asked the defendant for his driver's license and the defendant presented either a license or a North Carolina Identification Card;
- 9. That the Officer further noticed that the defendant was acting very nervous, was stuttering and beginning to sweat;
- 10. That Officer Van Deusen [sic] advised the defendant to be truthful with him if his license were revoked whereupon the defendant admitted that his license was revoked;

. . . .

- 12. That the defendant could not produce the registration for the vehicle and advised he had borrowed the [*7] tag for the car;
- 13. Officer Van Deusen [sic] had concerns for his own safety based on the defendant's actions and statements and asked the defendant to step out of the vehicle;
- 14. That the defendant denied having any weapons on his person.
- 15. That Officer Van Deusen [sic] asked the defendant for consent to search the defendant for weapons and the defendant stated he could search him;
- 16. That during the search of the defendant the defendant advised that he was nervous because he had drunk some alcohol, although Officer Van Deusen [sic] could detect no odor of alcohol about the defendant;
- 17. That no weapon was located during the search of the defendant's person;
- 18. Officer Van Deusen [sic] advised the defendant he was still concerned about his safety due to the defendant's continued nervous behavior, and the officer then asked the defendant if he could search the vehicle;
- 19. That the defendant stated Officer Van Deusen [sic] could search the vehicle;
- 20. That during the entire incident the defendant never withdrew his consent for the officer to search his person and the vehicle;
- 21. That the Officer searched the driver's side and then searched the passenger [*8] side;

$\begin{array}{c} \text{App. } 43 \\ \text{2003 N.C. App. LEXIS 1301, *8} \end{array}$

- 22. That during the search, Officer Van Deusen [sic] located a bag of crack cocaine under the front passenger seat, four razor blades in the rear floorboard behind the passenger seat, and a box of baggies on the back passenger seat;
- 23. That Officer Van Deusen [sic] arrested the defendant for the drug violations and placed him in the rear of his patrol vehicle;
- 24. That the search began at 7:32 p.m. and ended at 7:37 p.m.

Based upon those findings, the court concluded:

(1) that the defendant freely, knowingly and voluntarily consented to a search of his person; (2) that he freely, knowingly and voluntarily consented to a search of the vehicle he had been operating in which a bag of crack cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance was located; and (3) that the evidence seized by Officer Van Deusen [sic] was seized as the result of a lawful search and shall be admissible in the trial of these actions.

On this record, we conclude that the court's findings, which are presumed correct, support the trial court's conclusions that the defendant "freely, knowingly and voluntarily" consented to the search of his person and the vehicle that he was operating on the evening [*9] in question. Accordingly, we affirm the trial court's denial of defendant's motion to suppress the evidence in his trial.

Affirmed.

Judges TYSON and STEELMAN concur.

Report per Rule 30(e).

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