

State of South Carolina  
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**September 19, 2016**

**Pickens Men Plead Guilty in “Howard’s Rock” Case**

PICKENS COUNTY--Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Michael J Rogers, age 49, and Alden J Gainey, Age 20, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge of Giving False Information to Police for their involvement in attempting to cover up Micah Roger’s vandalism of Howard’s Rock in June of 2013. Micah Rogers, Michael’s son, was convicted at trial last summer of malicious injury to property for vandalizing the Rock.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Baker Cleveland established that on June 20, 2013, Michael J Rogers had a meeting at his home in NC with his son Micah, Alden Gainey, and Xavia Wynn to discuss video surveillance of Micah’s truck and the three boys in the vicinity of the Rock the night the vandalism occurred. According to Xavia Wynn, Michael urged the boys to “stick to the story” that they did not damage the rock, and that they were just there to take pictures. On June 24, 2013, the same four individuals traveled to Pickens, SC to meet with law enforcement. Alden Gainey, who was present the night Micah Rogers damaged the Rock, gave the fabricated version of events to police, but Xavia Wynn came clean, informing officers that Micah had indeed damaged the Rock. Subsequent investigation revealed Michael Rogers’ role in fabricating the story.