



ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Larry K. Grooms

Member

South Carolina Senate

P.O. Box 142

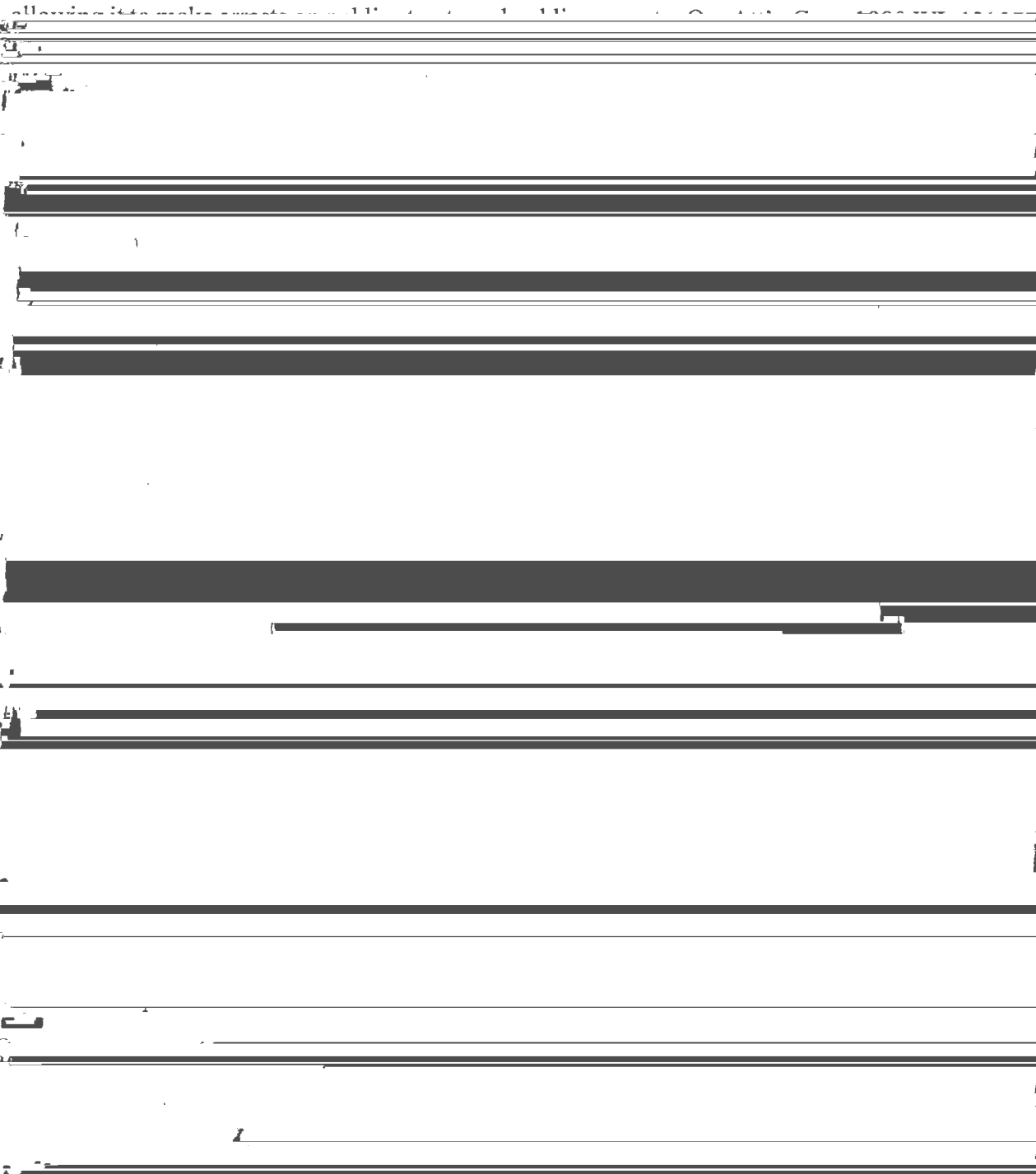
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Grooms:

We received your letter requesting an opinion of this Office concerning enforcement of municipal parking ordinances by private entities. In your letter, you explain:

It has come to my attention that the governing body of a coastal municipality has contracted with a private entity to enforce the municipality's parking ordinance. The private entity patrols the municipality's streets looking for violators of the ordinance, writes tickets for the violators, and collects the fines. The municipality and the private entity then split the fines based upon a formula in their contract.

Specifically, you ask: Is it the opinion of your office that a municipality can



(S.C.A.G. Mar. 6, 1980). We determined:

**Conclusion**

Parking enforcement involves the exercise of a municipality's police powers. Based on prior opinions of this Office, police power may not be delegated to private entities absent legislative or constitutional authority. Finding no such authority, we do not believe a municipality may delegate parking enforcement to a private entity.

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Sincerely,

  
Cydney Milling  
Assistant Attorney General

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

  
Robert D. Cook  
Solicitor General