



OFFICE OF THE  
HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY  
**CHRISTIAN D. MENEFFEE**

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December 13, 2024

The Honorable Scott Harris  
Clerk of the Court  
Supreme Court of the United States  
One First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20543

Re: *Janice Hughes Barnes, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of Ashtian Barnes, Deceased v. Roberto Felix Jr; County of Harris, Texas*, No. 23-1239.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Harris County writes to advise that Harris County will not be filing a brief on the merits in *Janice Hughes Barnes, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of Ashtian Barnes, Deceased v. Roberto Felix Jr; County of Harris, Texas*, No. 23-1239. The Court granted certiorari on October 4, 2024 and set oral argument for January 22, 2025.

Harris County is a political body governed by four commissioners and a county judge. The County has a statutory obligation to defend civil suits against County employees. Tex. Loc. Gov. Code § 157.091. Harris County retained Williams & Connolly LLP to represent Officer Roberto Felix. Following discussions with its Commissioners Court, however, Harris County itself takes no official position regarding the merits of the matters before the Court. The parties have submitted their Joint Appendix, and Officer Felix's counsel will submit briefing and participate in oral argument for respondents. Given that the issues affecting the legal interests of Officer Felix and the County in this case overlap entirely, Harris County believes that Officer Felix will more than adequately represent those interests.

Sincerely,

SETH HOPKINS

Special Assistant County Attorney  
Harris County Attorney's Office  
REPRESENTING HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS