



South Carolina Department of Corrections

Feb. 23, 2022

For immediate release

Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206

Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The SCDC Office of Investigations and Intelligence released the arrest warrants today for a Columbia man who was arrested near the Columbia prison complex on drug charges.

Damien Belafonte Jones Counts, 43, was arrested in the 1100 block of Piney Grove Road. He is charged with possession of drugs with intent to distribute, pointing a firearm and unlawfully carrying a pistol. The incident occurred when SCDC police agents were returning to the Broad River Road complex. A man with a gun was chasing someone and ran in front of the agents' car.

The S.C. Department of Corrections reminds members of the public that after an arrest, the burden of proof is on the state to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt within a court of law.

Copies of the arrest warrants are attached.

ARREST WARRANT

2022A4010400042

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland / Dentsville Magistrate

THE STATE

33-2022-031

against

Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 165

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Terrell K McCombs - S02957

Offense: Drugs / Manuf., poss. of Sch. IV drugs, except flunitrazepam, with intent to distribute - 1st

Offense Code: 0189

Code/Ordinance Sec: 44-53-0370(a)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Damien Jones-Countson 2/19/22

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Dentsville Magistrate
2500 Decker Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29206

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland / Dentsville Magistrate

Personally appeared before me the affiant Terrell K McCombs

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

did within this county and state on or about 2/15/2022

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland / Dentsville Magistrate

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Manuf., poss. of Sch. IV drugs, except flunitrazepam, with intent to distribute - 1st offense

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on or about 2-15-22 while on the 1100 block of Piney Grove Rd. Columbia, SC 29210 in Richland County, the defendant Damien Jones-Counts did commit the crime of PWID. The defendant did exit a 2-door white in color 2005 Chrysler Crossfire SC Tag BDN-223. The defendant did admit to a small clear jar with a white top containing a green leafy plant like material being in the vehicle. During the inventory of the vehicle a multicolor bag located in the trunk contained tow large clear bags and 1 vacuum sealed bag containing a green leafy plant like material in it, with field weight of approx. 979 grams. Probable cause based on investigation and search warrant results. Affiant and others are witness to prove the same.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland / Dentsville Magistrate

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787

Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone (803)360-0150

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 2/15/2022

defendant Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Richland / Dentsville Magistrate

) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Manuf., poss. of Sch. IV drugs, except flunitrazepam, with intent to distribute - 1st offense

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 2/18/2022

Signature of Issuing Judge
Phillip Fredric Newsom (Magistrate)

Judge Code: 5014 7154

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 2500 Decker Boulevard

Columbia, SC 29206-

Judge's Telephone (803)576-2560

Issuing Court:

☒ Magistrate☐ Municipal☐ Circuit

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AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2022A4010200641

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland Bond Court

THE STATE 332022031

against

Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: [REDACTED] Height: 5 11 Weight: 165

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Terrell K Mccombs - S02957

Offense: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Offense Code: 0122

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0410

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be

dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Damien Jones Counts

on 2/15/22

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Richland County General Sessions

1701 Main Street

P O Box 192

Columbia, SC 29202

ORIGINAL

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland Bond Court

AFFIDAVIT

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Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Terrell K Mccombs who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

did within this county and state on or about 2/15/2022 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Richland Bond Court

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On February 15, 2022 on the 1100 block of Piney Grove Road Columbia, SC 29210 in the County of Richland. One Damien Jones-Counts did commit the crime of Pointing and Presenting SC 16-23-410. Defendant was seen by the affiant pointing a black in color handgun (Serial #BY501684) at the victim as he ran away from the defendant. Affiant and others are witness to prove same.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland Bond Court

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787

Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 2/15/2022 defendant Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Richland Bond Court) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Pointing and presenting firearms at a person

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 2/15/2022 2:57 pm

Signature of Issuing Judge

Tobias Gavin Ward Jr.

Judge Code: 7427

Judge's Address Central Court

Columbia, SC 29223-

Judge's Telephone (803)576-2300

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2022A4010200642

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland Bond Court

THE STATE 332022031

against

Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: [REDACTED] Height: 5 11 Weight: 165

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Terrell K McCombs - S02957

Offense: Weapons / Unlawful carrying of pistol

Offense Code: 0044

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0020

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

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is to be arrested and brought before me to be

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland Bond Court

Personally appeared before me the affiant Terrell K McCombs who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

did within this county and state on or about 2/15/2022

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Richland Bond Court

in the following particulars: violate the criminal laws of the

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Unlawful carrying of pistol

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

On February 15, 2022, on the 1100 block of Piney Grove Road Columbia, SC 29210 in the County of Richland. One Damien Jones-Counts did commit the crime of Unlawful Carrying of Handgun. Defendant was seen by the affiant pointing a black in color handgun (Serial #BY501684) at the victim as he ran away from the defendant. Defendant does not have a concealed weapons permit (CWP). Affiant and others are witness to prove same.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Richland Bond Court

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787

Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

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It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 2/15/2022 defendant Damien Belafonte Jones Counts

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Richland Bond Court) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Unlawful carrying of pistol

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 2/15/2022 4:57 pm

Signature of Issuing Judge

Tobias Gavin Ward Jr.

Judge Code: 7427

Judge's Address Central Court

Columbia, SC 29223-

Judge's Telephone (803)576-2300

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Damien Jones-Counts

on 2/15/22

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Richland County General Sessions

1701 Main Street

P O Box 192

Columbia, SC 29202

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