

## **South Carolina Department of Corrections**

Aug. 24, 2023 For immediate release Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206 <u>Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov</u>

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – The SCDC Inspector General released arrest warrants today for a correctional officer at McCormick Correctional Institution.

Tawanika D. Cooper, 26, of Augusta, Ga., is charged with providing prisoners with contraband, misconduct in office and drug conspiracy. Her charges involve bringing rolling papers into the institution. She was fired.

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.

-30-

ARREST WARRANT	STATE OF SOUTH O	CAROLINA )			ORIGINAL	Form Approved by S.C. Attorney General
2023A3510100206	X County/	Municipality of )	А	FFIDAVIT		April 21, 2003 SCCA 518
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	Mccormick	,	America N. Californi	1		
X County/ Municipality of			Amanda N Gabbard			who
Mccormick		deposes and says that de unty and state on or about	fendant <u>Tawanika</u> 8/ 4/2023	D. Cooper	violate the	criminal laws of the
Weedminer				nicipality of Mccorr	AND	)
THE STATE	in the following p					
against Tawanika D. Cooper	DESCRIPTION OF	OFFENSE: Prisoners / Contra	aband, possession by p	orisoner, furnishing or at	tempt to furnish priso	ner with
Address:	-			_		
	-					
Phone: SSN:	I further state t the crime set for			t the defendant name	ed above did comm	iit
Sex: F Race: B Height: vveignt:	_	th and that probable cause		-		
DL State: GA DL #:		08/04/2023 at McCormick C n McCormick County, the de				
DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C	the defendant, wh	to at the time of the incident				
Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Divisio Prosecuting Officer: Amanda N Gabbard - S00330		when during a vehicle interdio				
Offense: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner,	of contraband to	rolling papers During an in		the defendant admitted t t MCCI. Probable cause		
furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with		ce, and investigation.				Statementy
Offense Code: 0074				~ I		
Code/Ordinance Sec: 24-03-0950	_	Signature of Affiant	$\mathcal{O}$	'abband		
This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the				AUDIOUN		
County/ Municipality of	STATE OF SOUTH	Municipality of	) Affiant's Address	P.O. Box 21787		
. The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be			) <u>_</u>	Columbia, SC 29221-1	787	
dealt with according to the law.	Mccormick		Affiant's Telephone			
-						
(L.S	.)		ARREST WA	ARRANT		
Signature of Judge						
Date:	TO ANY LAW ENF	ORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS				
RETURN	-	It appearing from	the above amidav	it that there are	reasonable grounds	to believe that
A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to		/2023	defendant Tawa	nika D. Cooper		
defendant T. Cooper		iminal laws of the State of Municipality of Mcc				
· <u>August</u> 24,2023			ormick		as set forth below:	
	DESCRIPTION OF	OFFENSE: Prisoners / Cont	traband, possession by	prisoner, furnishing or a	attempt to furnish pris	oner with
S. Moris	Having found proba	ble cause and the above affiant h	aving sworn before me, yo	ou are empowered and directed	ed to arrest the said defen	dant and bring him or
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer	her before me forthy soon thereafter as is	with to be dealt with according to I	aw. A copy of this Arrest V	Varrant shall be delivered to t	he defendant at the time of	f its execution, or as
RETURN WARRANT TO:	Sworn to and subso on 8/16/2023	cribed before me	)			
Mccormick Magistrate			) Judge's Address	Post Office Box 1116	;	
211 West Augusta Street, Extension	Patty	L. Smalles.)	)	McCormick, SC 2983		
Post Office Box 1116	Signature of Issuing Jud Patty L. Smith	ge v	Judge's Telephone	(864)852-2316		
Mccormick, SC 29835	- 1/	924	) Issuing Court:	X Magistrate	Municipal	Circuit
ORIGINAL ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL		NAL	

ARREST WAR	RRANT	STATE OF SOUT	'H CAROLINA	)		ORIGINAL	Form Approved by S.C. Attorney General
000040540	40007	X County/	Municipality of	) A	FFIDAVIT		April 21, 2003 SCCA 518
<u> </u>	0100207	Mccormick		)			
		Personally appe	eared before me the affiant	Amanda N Gabbar	ď		who
X County/	Municipality of	being duly swo	orn deposes and says that o	defendant Tawanika	D. Cooper		
Mccormick		did within this	county and state on or about	8/ 4/2023	*	violate the	criminal laws of the
THE STAT	TE		Carolina (or ordinance of X	County/ Mu	unicipality of Mccorr	mick	)
against		in the following					
Tawanika D. Cooper		DESCRIPTION	OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / M	lisconduct in office, ma	alfeasance, misfeasance, o	or nonfeasance	
Address:		-					
		-					
Phone:		_ I further state	that there is probable	cause to believe th	at the defendant name	ed above did comm	nit
Sex: F Race: B Height:	SSN:		forth and that probable caus				
DL State: GA DL#:			out 08/04/2023 at McCormick				
DOB: Agency	ORI #: SC040095C		9 in McCormick County, the o o at the time of the incident wa				
	ent Of Corrections Divisio		during an interview post Mir				
	abbard - S00330		ble cause is based on defendan				
Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct		_					
misfeasance, or nonfeasa	ince	_					
Offense Code: 0819 Code/Ordinance Sec: 00-00-0000		_		$\frown$	0 1		
		_	Signature of Affiant	X	Ciabbard		
This warrant is CERTIFIED FO	R SERVICE in the	STATE OF SOU	TH CAROLINA		0(		
County/ Municipality of	. The accuse	d X County/	Municipality of	) Affiant's Address	P.O. Box 21787		
is to be arrested and brought		Mccormick		)	Columbia, SC 29221-1	787	
dealt with according to the law.		Micconnick		Affiant's Telephone			
-							
	(L.S	š.)		ARREST W	/ARRANT		
Signature of Judge							
Date:		TO ANY LAW E	INFORCEMENT OFFICER OF TH			OF THIS COUNTY:	
		-	It appearing from	m the above affida	vit that there are	reasonable grounds	to believe that
RETURI		on or about 8	8/ 4/2023	defendant Tawa	anika D. Cooper		
A copy of this arrest warrant was	delivered to	did violate the	criminal laws of the State of				
defendant (Ooper	2022	- X County/		cormick		as set forth below:	
" stuguest cy	, 2023		OF OFFENSE: Misconduct /	Misconduct in office	malfaaraa	c	
$\sim$ 1							
J. Morris		Having found pro	obable cause and the above affiant orthwith to be dealt with according to	having sworn before me, y	ou are empowered and direct	ed to arrest the said defen	dant and bring him or
Signature of Constable/Law i	Enforcement Officer	soon thereafter a	as is practicable	,	vvariant shall be delivered to t	ne defendant at the time of	of its execution, or as
RETURN WARRANT TO:		Sworn to and su on 8/ <u>16</u> /2023	ubscribed before me	)			
Mccormick Magistrate				) Judge's Address	Post Office Box 1116	5	
211 West Augusta Street, E	Extension	Jatty.	L. Sm. d (L.S	5.) )	McCormick, SC 2983	35-1116	
Post Office Box 1116		Signature of Issuing Patty L. Smith		Judge's Telephone	(864)852-2316		
Mccormick, SC 29835		Judge Code	5924	) Issuing Court	t: X Magistrate	Municipal	Circuit
ODICINAL	ORIGINAL		ORIGINAL	, -			
ORIGINAL	UNIGINAL	ORIGINAL	URIGINAL	ORIGINAI	L ORIGI	NAL	ORIGINAL

ARREST WARRANT	STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
202242510100205	X County/ Municipality of ) AFFIDAV
2023A3510100205	Mccormick )
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	Personally appeared before me the affiant Amanda N Gabbard
X County/ Municipality of	being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Tawanika D. Cooper
Mccormick	did within this county and state on or about 8/ 4/2023
	State of South Carolina (or ordinance of X County/ Municipality of
THE STATE	in the following particulars:
against Tawanika D. Cooper	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Attempt and conspiracy, general provisions offense)
Address:	onensej
Phone: SSN:	I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the definition the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:
Sex: F Race: B Height: Weight:	
DL State: CA DL #:	That on or about 08/04/2023 at McCormick Correctional Institution (MCCI), lo Carolina 29899 in McCormick County, the defendant, Tawanika Cooper, did co
DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C	the defendant, who at the time of the incident was a sworn Correctional Officer
Prosecuting Agency: SCDepartment Of Corrections Division	and Conspiracy when during a vehicle interdiction, a hand search found a packa
Prosecuting Officer: Amanda N Gabbard - S00330	containing brown rolling papers. During an interview post Miranda, the defenda
Offense: Drugs / Attempt and conspiracy, general provisions	of contraband into MCCI. Probable cause is based on defendant statement, record
of the drug laws (half the penalty of substantive	
Offense Code: 0027	
Code/Ordinance Sec: 44-53-0420	Simplus of Affant
This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the	Signature of Affiant
County/ Municipality of	STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )
The accused	County/ Municipality of Affiant's Address P.O. Box 2 Columbia, S
is to be arrested and brought before me to be	Mccormick ) Affiant's Telephone
dealt with according to the law.	
(L.S.)	ARREST WARRANT
Signature of Judge	
Date:	TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY
	It appearing from the above affidavit that the
RETURN	on or about 8/4/2023 defendant Tawanika D. Co
A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to	
defendant T COOPH	did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of X County/ Municipality of Mccormick
on August 24, 2023	
	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Attempt and conspiracy, general provision
7- morrio	offense) Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowe
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer	her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be
	soon thereafter as is practicable Sworn to and subscribed before me )
RETURN WARRANT TO:	on $8/16/2023$
Mccormick Magistrate	Judge's Address Post Offic
211 West Augusta Street, Extension	Pally L SM (L.S.) McCormic
Post Office Box 1116	Patty L. Smith (864)852-
Mccormick, SC 29835	Patty L. Smith )

TE OF SOUTH CAROLINA County/ Municipality of	) ) AFFIDAVIT	ORIGINAL	Form Approved by S.C. Attorney General April 21, 2003 SCCA 518
cormick	)		
sonally appeared before me the affiant	Amanda N Gabbard		who
ng duly sworn deposes and says that	defendant Tawanika D. Cooper		
within this county and state on or abou	8/ 4/2023	violate the	criminal laws of the
te of South Carolina (or ordinance of the following particulars:	County/ Municipality of Mccormi	ick	)
	pt and conspiracy, general provisions of the drug la	ws (half the penalty of	of substantive
further state that there is probable	cause to believe that the defendant named	above did commit	it

2023 at McCormick Correctional Institution (MCCI), located at 386 Redemption Way, McCormick, South ormick County, the defendant, Tawanika Cooper, did commit the crime of Attempt and Conspiracy to wit: time of the incident was a sworn Correctional Officer of the State of South Carolina, did commit Attempt ring a vehicle interdiction, a hand search found a package wrapped in grey duct tape and saran wrap papers. During an interview post Miranda, the defendant admitted to attempting to assist the introduction I. Probable cause is based on defendant statement, recovered evidence, and investigation.

Signature of Affiant	A	Crabbard
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA           X         County/         Municipality of	Affiant's Address	P.O. Box 21787 Columbia, SC 29221-1787
Mccormick	Affiant's Telephon	e

## **ARREST WARRANT**

Oignature of Su	ugo												
		TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:											
			It appearing	from th	e above	affidavit th	hat there	are	reasonable	grounds	to	believe	that
py of this arrest warrant w dant	as delivered to	on or about 8/ 4/2 did violate the crir X County/			th Carolina		D. Cooper e of	01	as set forth be	elow:			
7 - WWW Signature of Constable/L	aw Enforcement Officer	Having found probabl		affiant having	sworn before	e me, you are e	empowered ar	nd direct	ed to arrest the	e said defen	dant and	d bring hi	im or
RN WARRANT TO: Mccormick Magistrate 211 West Augusta Street	, Extension	on 8/16/2023	LSm ~	) (L.S.)	Judge's Addr	McC	t Office Bo Cormick, So 4)852-2316	C 2983					
Post Office Box 1116 Mccormick, SC 29835		Patty L. Smith Judge Code: 592	24	) )	Issuing	<u> </u>			Munic	ipal		Circui	t
ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL	ORIGINAL		ORIG	INAL	(	ORIGI	NAL		ORIG	INAL	