



## **South Carolina Department of Corrections**

Aug. 24, 2023

For immediate release

Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206

[Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov](mailto:Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov)

**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.

## ARREST WARRANT

2023A3510100206

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

THE STATE

against

Tawanika D. Cooper

Address:

Phone:

SSN:

Sex: F

Race: B

Height:

Weight:

DL State:

GA

DL #:

DOB:

Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Amanda N Gabbard - S00330

Offense: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner,  
furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

Offense Code: 0074

Code/Ordinance Sec: 24-03-0950

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

on

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

## RETURN WARRANT TO:

McCormick Magistrate  
211 West Augusta Street, Extension  
Post Office Box 1116  
McCormick, SC 29835

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

Personally appeared before me the affiant Amanda N Gabbard

who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Tawanika D. Cooper

did within this county and state on or about 8/4/2023

violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner, furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

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 08/04/2023 at McCormick Correctional Institution (MCCI), located at 386 Redemption Way, McCormick, South  
Carolina 29899 in McCormick County, the defendant, Tawanika Cooper, did commit the crime of Attempt and Conspiracy to wit:  
the defendant, who at the time of the incident was a sworn Correctional Officer of the State of South Carolina, did commit Attempt  
and Conspiracy when during a vehicle interdiction, a hand search found a package wrapped in grey duct tape and saran wrap  
containing brown rolling papers. During an interview post Miranda, the defendant admitted to attempting to assist the introduction  
of contraband to an inmate lawfully incarcerated at MCCI. Probable cause is based on defendant statement,  
recovered evidence, and investigation.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

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 8/4/2023 defendant Tawanika D. Cooper

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of McCormick ) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner, furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

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 8/16/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge  
Patty L. Smith (L.S.)

Judge Code:

5924

Judge's Address Post Office Box 1116  
McCormick, SC 29835-1116

Judge's Telephone (864)852-2316

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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

AFFIDAVIT

## ARREST WARRANT

2023A3510100207

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

THE STATE

against

Tawanika D. Cooper

Address:

Phone: SSN

Sex: F Race: B Height: Weight:

DL State: GA DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Amanda N Gabbard - S00330

Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 00-00-0000

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

on

T. Cooper  
August 24, 2023  
S. Morris

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

## RETURN WARRANT TO:

McCormick Magistrate  
211 West Augusta Street, Extension  
Post Office Box 1116  
McCormick, SC 29835

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

Personally appeared before me the affiant Amanda N Gabbard who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Tawanika D. Cooper

did within this county and state on or about 8/4/2023 violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

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 08/04/2023 at McCormick Correctional Institution (MCCI), located at 386 Redemption Way, McCormick, South Carolina 29899 in McCormick County, the defendant, Tawanika Cooper, did commit the crime of Misconduct in Office to wit: the defendant, who at the time of the incident was a sworn Correctional Officer of the State of South Carolina, did commit Misconduct in Office when during an interview post Miranda, the defendant admitted to attempting to assist the introduction of contraband into MCCI. Probable cause is based on defendant statement, recovered evidence, and investigation.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

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 8/4/2023 defendant Tawanika D. Cooper

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of McCormick ) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

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 8/16/2023

Patty L. Smith (L.S.)  
Signature of Issuing Judge

Patty L. Smith

Judge Code: 5924

Judge's Address Post Office Box 1116  
McCormick, SC 29835-1116

Judge's Telephone (864)852-2316

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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

AFFIDAVIT

## ARREST WARRANT

2023A3510100205

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

THE STATE

against

Tawanika D. Cooper

Address:

Phone: SSN:

Sex: F Race: B Height: Weight:

DL State: GA DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Amanda N Gabbard - S00330

Offense: Drugs / Attempt and conspiracy, general provisions of the drug laws (half the penalty of substantive

Offense Code: 0027

Code/Ordinance Sec: 44-53-0420

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 T Cooper on August 24, 2023

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

## RETURN WARRANT TO:

McCormick Magistrate  
211 West Augusta Street, Extension  
Post Office Box 1116  
McCormick, SC 29835

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

Personally appeared before me the affiant Amanda N Gabbard who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Tawanika D. Cooper did within this county and state on or about 8/4/2023 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of McCormick) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Attempt and conspiracy, general provisions of the drug laws (half the penalty of substantive 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 08/04/2023 at McCormick Correctional Institution (MCCI), located at 386 Redemption Way, McCormick, South Carolina 29899 in McCormick County, the defendant, Tawanika Cooper, did commit the crime of Attempt and Conspiracy to wit: the defendant, who at the time of the incident was a sworn Correctional Officer of the State of South Carolina, did commit Attempt and Conspiracy when during a vehicle interdiction, a hand search found a package wrapped in grey duct tape and saran wrap containing brown rolling papers. During an interview post Miranda, the defendant admitted to attempting to assist the introduction of contraband into MCCI. Probable cause is based on defendant statement, recovered evidence, and investigation.

Signature of Affiant

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☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

McCormick

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787  
Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone

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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 8/4/2023 defendant Tawanika D. Cooper

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of McCormick) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Attempt and conspiracy, general provisions of the drug laws (half the penalty of substantive 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 8/16/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Patty L. Smith

Judge Code: 5924

Judge's Address Post Office Box 1116  
McCormick, SC 29835-1116

Judge's Telephone (864)852-2316

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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