



South Carolina Department of Corrections

Feb. 27, 2024

For immediate release

Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206

Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The SCDC Inspector General released the arrest warrants today for a Moore man on contraband charges involving a drone at Ridgeland Correctional Institution.

Christopher James Brannon, 39, is charged with providing prisoners with contraband, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and criminal conspiracy.

Brannon is charged with driving another man to a spot near Ridgeland CI for the purpose of flying a drone containing contraband onto the prison yard. [That man was arrested in October.](#)

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

2024A2720200022

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

06-2023-086

against

Christopher James Brannon

Address:

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 137

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Richard M Darling - S00238

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

christopher Brannon

2-26-2024

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
265 Russell Street
Po Box 248
Ridgeland, SC 299360248

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

Personally appeared before me the affiant Richard M Darling

who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher James Brannon

did within this county and state on or about 10/26/2023

violate the criminal laws of the

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

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:

October 26, 2023, in the County of Jasper, Town of Ridgeland, one Christopher James Brannon, did commit the offense of Contraband/Possession attempt to Furnish Contraband to a Prisoner. Defendant did conspire with a co-defendant to fly an (AI) or drone air flight unmanned aerial apparatus with contraband to include tobacco and Marijuana into the Ridgeland Correctional Institution (RCI) located at 5 Correctional Rd. Ridgeland SC, 29936. Defendant did communicate via text message with South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) inmates about introducing the packages of contraband and driving his co-defendant to the solar panel field next to RCI so the co-defendant could use the (AI) to fly the contraband into RCI. Affiant, witnesses and others to prove same.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

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 10/26/2023 defendant Christopher James Brannon

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

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of Ridgeland

) 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 2/21/2024

Signature of Issuing Judge
Thomas L. Scoggins (Ridgeland)

Judge Code: 6563

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Post Office Box 1119

Ridgeland, SC 29936-

Judge's Telephone (843)726-7500

Issuing Court:

☐ Magistrate☒ Municipal☐ Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2024A2720200020

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

06-2023-86

against

Christopher James Brannon

Address:

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 137

DL State: SC DL #: DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Richard M Darling - S00238

Offense: Drugs / Manuf., poss. of other sub. in Sch. I, II, III

or flunitrazepam or analogue, w.i.t.d. - 1st offense

Offense Code: 0186

Code/Ordinance Sec: 44-53-0370(b)(2)

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 Christopher James Brannon

on 2-26-2024

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
265 Russell Street
Po Box 248
Ridgeland, SC 299360248

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

Personally appeared before me the affiant Richard M Darling

who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Christopher James Brannon

did within this county and state on or about 10/26/2023

violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Manuf., poss. of other sub. in Sch. I, II, III or flunitrazepam or analogue, w.i.t.d. - 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 October 26, 2023 in the County of Jasper, Town of Ridgeland, one, Christopher James Brannon did aid, abet, attempt or conspire to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver, purchase and or possess marijuana, with the intent to manufacture, distribute, dispense, deliver, or purchase marijuana. Defendant and co-defendant did conspire through mutual agreement and actions to distribute unlawful contraband to include Marijuana into the Ridgeland Correctional Institution located at 5 Correctional Rd. in Ridgeland, SC 29936. Defendant did drop off a co-conspirator in the area of the solar panel field adjacent to RCI within the Town of Ridgeland for the purpose of using a (AI) done aerial apparatus to distribute miscellaneous contraband to include 49 grams of green plant material which field tested presumptive for marijuana into RCI. Probable cause is based on defendant's self admission under miranda. Affiant, witnesses and others to prove same.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

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 10/26/2023 defendant Christopher James Brannon

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Drugs / Manuf., poss. of other sub. in Sch. I, II, III or flunitrazepam or analogue, w.i.t.d. - 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 2/21/2024

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Thomas L. Scoggins (Ridgeland)

Judge Code: 6563

Judge's Address Post Office Box 1119

Ridgeland, SC 29936-

Judge's Telephone (843)726-7500

Issuing Court: ☐ Magistrate ☒ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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

AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2024A2720200021

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

06-2023-086

against

Christopher James Brannon

Address:

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 137

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Richard M Darling - S00238

Offense: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

Offense Code: 0049

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-17-0410

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

on

Christopher James Brannon
2-26-24

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

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265 Russell Street
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

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did within this county and state on or about 10/26/2023

violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

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 October 26, 2023, in the County of Jasper, Town of Ridgeland, one Christopher James Brannon did commit the offense of Criminal Conspiracy. Defendant James and another did plan or scheme to accomplish the unlawful act of distribution of marijuana into the Ridgeland Correctional Institution located at 5 Correctional Rd in Ridgeland, SC 29936. Defendant and co-defendant did conspire through mutual agreement and actions to distribute unlawful drugs and contraband items into RCI. Defendant did drop off co-conspirator in the area of the solar panel field adjacent to RCI within the Town of Ridgeland, SC 29936 for the purpose of using a (AI) done aerial apparatus to distribute miscellaneous contraband to include Marijuana into RCI. This being in violation of SC Statute 16-17-0410 code of laws as amended. Probable cause is based on defendant's self-admission under Miranda. Affiant, witnesses and others to prove same.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

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 10/26/2023 defendant Christopher James Brannon

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

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 2/21/2024

Signature of Issuing Judge
Thomas L. Scoggins (Ridgeland)

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