



## South Carolina Department of Corrections

June 23, 2022

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 Office of Investigations and Intelligence released the arrest warrants today for an officer at Ridgeland Correctional Institution.

Maj. John Wiggins Jr., 46, of Early Branch, is charged with second-degree assault and battery, intimidation and two counts of misconduct in office. The charges against him involve the sexual molestation of a subordinate officer and an attempt to alter the chain of custody for evidence.

Wiggins was placed on leave without pay when the incident was reported, and he was fired after charges were filed.

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.

The case was investigated by the SCDC Office of Investigations and Intelligence in conjunction with the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's office.

Copies of the arrest warrants are attached.

ARREST WARRANT

2022A2720200104

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
County/ ☒ Municipality of  
Ridgeland

THE STATE  
against  
31-2022-059

John Wiggins, Jr

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]  
Sex: M Race: [REDACTED] Height: 5 9 Weight: 226  
DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]  
DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C  
Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division  
Prosecuting Officer: Julie L Swank - S00551  
Offense: Assault / Assault & Battery 2nd degree

Offense Code: 3413

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0600(D)(1)

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 6/22/22 at 15:28  
JAN WIGGINS JR.

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

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

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ ☒ Municipality of  
Ridgeland

Personally appeared before me the affiant Julie L Swank

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant John Wiggins, Jr

did within this county and state on or about 5/2/2022

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Assault & Battery 2nd degree

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 May 2, 2022, in the County of Jasper, City of Ridgeland, one John Wiggins Jr. did commit the offense of Assault & Battery 2nd degree. Defendant is a Certified and Sworn Correctional Officer with the rank of Major, employed by the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) at Ridgeland Correctional Institution (RCI) located at 5 Correctional Rd. in Ridgeland, SC 29936. Defendant while acting in supervisory authority did commit assault & battery 2nd degree against a subordinate correctional officer through sexual molestation by grabbing the victim on her breast and buttocks. The victim told defendant Wiggins Jr. several times to stop and said no. Defendant Wiggins Jr. disregarded and proceeded to place his hand down the victim's shirt, went inside the bra area and started to caress the victim's nipple. The Defendant was visibly erected during the sexual assault and the victim had to forcefully grab and push defendant Wiggins Jr. away. This being in violation of SC Statute 16-03-0600(D), 1976 as amended.

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 5/2/2022 defendant John Wiggins, Jr

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: Assault / Assault & Battery 2nd degree

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 6/22/2022

(L.S.)

Signature of Issuing Judge  
Thomas L. Scoggins (Ridgeland)

Judge Code: 6563

Judge's Address

Post Office Box 1119

Ridgeland, SC 29936-

(843)726-7500

Issuing Court:

☐ Magistrate

☒ Municipal

☐ Circuit

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AFFIDAVIT

who

ARREST WARRANT

2022A2720200105

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

against

John Wiggins, Jr

Address:

Phone:

Sex: M

Race:

Height: 5

Weight: 226

DL State: SC

DL #:

SSN:

DOB:

Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Julie L Swank - S00551

Offense: Courts / Intimidation of court officials, jurors, or

-- witnesses (after April 1, 1996)

Offense Code: 2451

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-09-0340

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

County/ ☐ Municipality of

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

6/22/22 at 15:29

John Wiggins Jr.

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions

265 Russell Street

Po Box 248

Ridgeland, SC 299360248

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

Personally appeared before me the affiant

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant

did within this county and state on or about

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

in the following particulars:

Julie L Swank

John Wiggins, Jr

5/2/2022

County/ ☐

Municipality of

Ridgeland

violate the criminal laws of the

who

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Courts / Intimidation of court officials, jurors, or witnesses (after April 1, 1996)

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 May 2, 2022, in the County of Jasper, City of Ridgeland, one John Wiggins Jr. did commit the offense of Intimidation of Court Officials, Jurors, or Witnesses. Defendant is a Certified and Sworn Correctional Officer with the rank of Major, employed by the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) at Ridgeland Correctional Institution (RCI) located at 5 Correctional Rd. in Ridgeland, SC 29936. While acting in a supervisory authority defendant forged the name of another officer on a chain of custody document for evidence. Defendant did destroy and create a new chain of custody document for evidence with a different officer's name, whom he admittedly forged, and wrote in different times from that of the original. This act was done to impede and obstruct the investigation on the defendant for a sexual assault against another Correctional Officer. This being in violation of SC Statute 16-09-0340(A)(2) code of laws as amended. Affiant, witnesses to prove the 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 5/2/2022

defendant

John Wiggins, Jr

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: Courts / Intimidation of court officials, jurors, or witnesses (after April 1, 1996)

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 6/22/2022

(L.S.)

Judge's Address

Post Office Box 1119

Ridgeland, SC 29936-

Judge's Telephone

(843)726-7500

Issuing Court:

Magistrate

Municipal

Circuit

ORIGINAL

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## ARREST WARRANT

2022A2720200106

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

against

31-2022-059

John Wiggins, Jr

Address:

Phone:

Sex: M

Race:

Height: 5

SSN: [REDACTED]

Weight: 226

DL State:

SC

DL #:

Agency ORI #: SC040095C

DOB:

[REDACTED]

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Julie L Swank - S00551

Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance,

misfeasance, or nonfeasance

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030

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 6/22/22 at 15:20

JOHN WIGGINS JR.

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions

265 Russell Street

Po Box 248

Ridgeland, SC 299360248

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

Personally appeared before me the affiant

Julie L Swank

who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant

John Wiggins, Jr

violate the criminal laws of the

did within this county and state on or about 5/2/2022

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

Ridgeland

in the following particulars:

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

Address:

Phone:

Sex: M

Race:

Height: 5

SSN: [REDACTED]

Weight: 226

DL State:

SC

DL #:

Agency ORI #: SC040095C

DOB:

[REDACTED]

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Julie L Swank - S00551

Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance,

misfeasance, or nonfeasance

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030

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 6/22/22 at 15:20

JOHN WIGGINS JR.

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions

265 Russell Street

Po Box 248

Ridgeland, SC 299360248

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

## AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

Personally appeared before me the affiant

Julie L Swank

who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant

John Wiggins, Jr

violate the criminal laws of the

did within this county and state on or about 5/2/2022

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

Ridgeland

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:

On May 2, 2022, in the County of Jasper, City of Ridgeland, one John Wiggins Jr. did commit the offense of Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance. Defendant is a Certified and Sworn Correctional Officer with the rank of Major, employed by the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) at Ridgeland Correctional Institution (RCI) located at 5 Correctional Rd. in Ridgeland, SC 29936. While acting in a supervisory authority defendant did commit an Assault & Battery 2nd degree against a subordinate Correctional Officer by sexually grabbing the victim on the breast and buttocks. The victim told the Defendant several times to stop and said no. Defendant disregarded and proceeded to place his hand down the victim's shirt, went inside the bra area, and started to caress the victim's nipple. The Defendant was visibly erected during the sexual assault and the victim had to forcefully grab and push the defendant's hand away. Affiant is witness to prove the 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

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defendant John Wiggins, Jr

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: 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 6/22/2022

(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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ORIGINAL

ARREST WARRANT

2022A2720200107

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

31-2022-059

against

John Wiggins, Jr

Address:

Phone:

Sex: M Race: SC

SSN: [REDACTED]

Height: 5 9 Weight: 226

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: Julie L Swank - S00551

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

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

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The accused

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

(L.S.)

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Date:

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on 6/22/22 at 15:29

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General Sessions

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Po Box 248

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ ☒ Municipality of

Ridgeland

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Julie L Swank

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant

John Wiggins, Jr

did within this county and state on or about 5/2/2022

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

Ridgeland

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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:

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on or about 5/2/2022 defendant John Wiggins, Jr

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

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Ridgeland

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Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 6/22/2022

Signature of Issuing Judge

Thomas L. Scoggins (L.S.)

Thomas L. Scoggins (Ridgeland)

Judge Code: 6563

Judge's Address

Post Office Box 1119

Ridgeland, SC 29936-

(843)726-7500

Judge's Telephone

Issuing Court: ☐ Magistrate ☒ Municipal

☐ Circuit

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