



South Carolina Department of Corrections

June 13, 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 former inmate on drug and contraband charges involving inmates at Ridgeland Correctional Institution.

Ronnie Ricardo Wells, 40, of Manning, is charged with providing contraband to inmates and possession of marijuana. Wells' charges involve launching a package of contraband over the fence at Ridgeland.

Ridgeland's contraband team recovered the package and provided a description of Wells to local authorities. Wells was arrested during a traffic stop after leaving the prison. Officers also confiscated a 9mm handgun during the stop.

Wells was incarcerated from 2003-2015 for armed robbery.

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.

SCDC thanks the Ridgeland Police Department for its assistance in this arrest.

ARREST WARRANT

2024A2720200082

3/5

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

01-2024-047

against

Ronnie Ricardo Wells

Address: [Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted] SSN: [Redacted]

Sex: M Race: Height: 5 8 Weight: 235

DL State: SC DL #: [Redacted]

DOB: [Redacted] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: James R Davis - S00710

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 Ronnie Ricardo Wells on 6-13-2024

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

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

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Ridgeland

Personally appeared before me the affiant James R Davis who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Ronnie Ricardo Wells did within this county and state on or about 6/11/2024 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:

That on June 11, 2024, in the County of Jasper, Town of Ridgeland, one Ronnie Ricardo Wells did furnish or attempt to furnish contraband to a prisoner at Ridgeland Correctional Institution and/or possess contraband, Tobacco products. Ridgeland Police Investigators were requested to respond to an incident of unknown persons attempting to throw items over the fence area at Ridgeland Correctional Institution located at 5 Correctional Rd. in Ridgeland, SC 29936. The persons fled the scene prior to police arrival in a black Camaro vehicle. Police observed the vehicle leaving the scene and conducted a traffic stop for a speeding violation. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted. Agents of the Inspector General Office were advised and responded. Incident to the search police recovered a 9mm handgun, tobacco products and plant material believed to be marijuana. Police also located a large launching device that defendant admitted he was using to throw the contraband over the RCI fence.

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 6/11/2024 defendant Ronnie Ricardo Wells

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 6/13/2024

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

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

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

AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2024A2720200083

M/C

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Ridgeland

THE STATE

01-2024-047

against

Ronnie Ricardo Wells

Address: [Redacted]

Phone: SSN [Redacted]

Sex: M Race: Height: 5 8 Weight: 235

DL State: SC DL #: [Redacted]

DOB: [Redacted] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Division

Prosecuting Officer: James R Davis - S00710

Offense: Drugs / Poss. of 28g (1 oz) or less of marijuana or 10g or less of hash - 1st offense

Offense Code: 0659

Code/Ordinance Sec: 44-53-0370(D)(5)

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 Ronnie Ricardo wells on 6-13-2024

[Signature] Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Ridgeland Municipal One Town Square Po Box 1119 Ridgeland, SC 29936

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) County/ Municipality of) Ridgeland)

Personally appeared before me the affiant James R Davis who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Ronnie Ricardo Wells did within this county and state on or about 6/11/2024 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 / Poss. of 28g (1 oz) or less of marijuana or 10g or less of hash - 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 June 11, 2024 in the County of Jasper, Town of Ridgeland, one Ronnie Ricardo Wells did knowingly and intentionally possess 28 grams (1 oz) or less of marijuana or 10 grams or less of hash. Defendant was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by Police for traffic violation. Incident to the stop police conducted a probable causes search of the vehicle and defendant was found to be in unlawful oppossession of a quantity of less than 1oz of plant material believed to be marijuana. Affiant, witnesses and others to prove same.

Signature of Affiant

[Signature]

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 6/11/2024 defendant Ronnie Ricardo Wells 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 / Poss. of 28g (1 oz) or less of marijuana or 10g or less of hash - 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 6/13/2024

[Signature] (L.S.) Signature of Issuing Judge Thomas L. Scoggms (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

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

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