



South Carolina

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
29221-1398

Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

WWW.SLED.SC.GOV

(803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2025

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

SLED CHARGES CHESTER COUNTY MAN WITH FAILURE TO STOP FOR BLUE LIGHTS, CHILD ENDANGERMENT, AND SIMPLE POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Matthew Cunningham, 19, with Failure to Stop for Blue Lights, Child Endangerment, and Simple Possession of Marijuana on Friday, December 13, 2024. South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice petitions were filed on a 16-year-old male passenger for Unlawful Possession of a Machine Gun and Unlawful Possession of a Handgun by a person under 18-years-old.

On December 13th, 2024, SLED initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle on Pine Street in the City of Chester. The attempted traffic stop became a vehicle chase where Chester County Sheriff's Deputies assisted. Cunningham fled from law enforcement and drove into a school bus near the intersection of Saluda Street and JA Cochran Bypass. The school bus was carrying one child and two adults. The child was taken to the hospital as a precaution and has been released. Cunningham and the 16-year-old passenger in the vehicle were both taken to the hospital for injuries sustained during the crash. No law enforcement officials were involved in the crash, and no law enforcement officials were injured.

Details can be found in the attached warrants.

Cunningham was booked into the Chester County Detention Center. The 16-year-old was released to a parent upon the advice of the solicitor's office and is pending a hearing in family court.

The case will be prosecuted by the 6th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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A copy of this news release is on SLED's website: www.sled.sc.gov
For media inquiries, please email SLED's Public Information Office: pio@sled.sc.gov



An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



ARREST WARRANT

2024A1210100897

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

THE STATE

against

Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

Address:

Chester, SC 29706-2126

Phone: SSN

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 10 Weight: 190

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: 2005 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Paul B Knight - S00651

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 ofThe 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
onMatthew Tyshawn Cunningham
12/13/2024
SIA Matt Hall
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Chester County Magistrate Court
2740 Dawson Drive
Chester, SC 29706

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

Personally appeared before me the affiant Paul B Knight

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

did within this county and state on or about 12/13/2024

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

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:

On December 13, 2024, at approximately 1:45 p.m., Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham did commit the offense of Failure to Stop for Blue Lights, Child Endangerment, and Simple Possession of Marijuana in the area of Pine Street within Chester County, SC. While in the area, SLED Lt. Blackmon attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a silver Nissan Altima bearing South Carolina temporary plate for a weapon violation. SLED and deputies from the Chester County Sheriff's Office pursued this vehicle until it was involved in a motor vehicle collision in the area of Saluda Street and J. A. Cochran Bypass in Chester County. Cunningham was identified as the driver and arrested on scene. A 16-year-old front seat passenger was also located inside the vehicle and was arrested for a weapon offense. Upon inventory of the vehicle 2.0 grams of a green leafy substance was seized from the driver seat.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221-

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 12/13/2024 defendant Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Chester) 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 12/13/2024

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Olivia Darby Williford

Judge Code: 7417

Judge's Address Chester County Magistrate

Chester, SC 29706-

Judge's Telephone (803)581-5136

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

ARREST WARRANT

2024A1210100895

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

THE STATE

against

Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

Address:

Chester, SC 29706-2126

Phone: SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 10 Weight: 190

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 2005 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Paul B Knight - S00651

Offense: Traffic / Failure to stop for a blue light, no injury or death - 1st offense

Offense Code: 0065

Code/Ordinance Sec: 56-05-0750(B)(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 Matthew Cunningham
on 12/13/24SIA Mont [Signature]
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
PO Drawer 580
140 Main Street
Chester, SC 29706

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

Personally appeared before me the affiant Paul B Knight whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Matthew Tyshawn Cunninghamdid within this county and state on or about 12/13/2024

violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Traffic / Failure to stop for a blue light, no injury or death - 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:

On December 13, 2024, at approximately 1:45 p.m., Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham did commit the offense of Failure to Stop for Blue Lights, Child Endangerment, and Simple Possession of Marijuana in the area of Pine Street within Chester County, SC. While in the area, SLED Lt. Blackmon attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a silver Nissan Altima bearing South Carolina temporary plate [REDACTED] for a weapon violation. SLED and deputies from the Chester County Sheriff's Office pursued this vehicle until it was involved in a motor vehicle collision in the area of Saluda Street and J. A. Cochran Bypass in Chester County. Cunningham was identified as the driver and arrested on scene. A 16-year-old front seat passenger was also located inside the vehicle and was arrested for a weapon offense. Upon inventory of the vehicle 2.0 grams of a green leafy substance was seized from the driver seat.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398Columbia, SC 29221-

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 12/13/2024defendant Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Chester) as set forth below.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Traffic / Failure to stop for a blue light, no injury or death - 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 12/13/2024[Signature]
Magistrate of Issuing Judge
Olivia Darby WillifordJudge Code: 7417Judge's Address Chester County MagistrateChester, SC 29706-Judge's Telephone (803)581-5136Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 516

ARREST WARRANT

2024A1210100896

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

THE STATE

against

Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

Address:

Chester, SC 29706-2126

Phone: _____ SSN: _____
Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 10 Weight: 190
DL State: SC DL #: _____
DOB: 2005 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Paul B Knight - S00651

Offense: Child / Child endangerment, commit certain vehicular offenses w/ minor in vehicle

Offense Code: 2395

Code/Ordinance Sec: 56-05-2947

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

Matthew Cunningham
12/13/24
SIA Matthew Cunningham
Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
Chester County Magistrate Court
2740 Dawson Drive
Chester, SC 29706

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

Personally appeared before me the affiant Paul B Knight

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

did within this county and state on or about 12/13/2024

violate the criminal laws of the

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

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Child / Child endangerment, commit certain vehicular offenses w/ minor in vehicle (enhance-half max penalty)

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 December 13, 2024, at approximately 1:45 p.m., Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham did commit the offense of Failure to Stop for Blue Lights, Child Endangerment, and Simple Possession of Marijuana in the area of Pine Street within Chester County, SC. While in the area, SLED Lt. Blackmon attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a silver Nissan Altima bearing South Carolina temporary plate [REDACTED] for a weapon violation. SLED and deputies from the Chester County Sheriff's Office pursued this vehicle until it was involved in a motor vehicle collision in the area of Saluda Street and J. A. Cochran Bypass in Chester County. Cunningham was identified as the driver and arrested on scene. A 16-year-old front seat passenger was also located inside the vehicle and was arrested for a weapon offense. Upon inventory of the vehicle 2.0 grams of a green leafy substance was seized from the driver seat.

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☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Chester

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

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on or about 12/13/2024

defendant Matthew Tyshawn Cunningham

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Chester

) as set forth below:

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Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 12/13/2024

Signature of Issuing Judge
Olivia Darby Williford

Judge Code 7417

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Chester County Magistrate

Chester, SC 29706-

Judge's Telephone (803)581-5136

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate☐ Municipal☐ Circuit

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

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