



South Carolina

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2026

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

FORMER SOUTHSIDE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER INDICTED FOR MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE AND EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

A Grand Jury indicted Thomas Eugene Bishop, 59, for Misconduct in Office and Embezzlement of Public Funds on Thursday, March 26, 2026. The SLED investigation was requested by the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Details can be found in the attached direct indictments.

Bishop was booked into the Union County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 16th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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For media inquiries, please email SLED's Public Information Office: pio@sled.sc.gov

WITNESSES

S/A T. Peay/SLED *[Signature]*

The State of South Carolina

County of Union

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MARCH 30, TERM 2026

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2026-GS-44-0222

THE STATE

vs.

THOMAS EUGENE BISHOP

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

[Signature]
Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date: *3-26-26*

VERDICT

TRUE BILL

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

After being fully advised as to my
legal rights, I hereby waive presentment
to the Grand Jury.

Defendant

I
hereby appear in my own proper person and plead
guilty to the within indictment or to

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. PLS. AND G.S.

Indictment for

MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

SC Code: C/L, 17-25-30
CDR Code: 0819

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF UNION)

INDICTMENT

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 26, 2026, the Grand Jurors of Union County present upon their oath:

MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

That in Union County, South Carolina, between on or about May 01, 2025 and on or about February 26, 2026, Thomas Eugene Bishop, while occupying a position as a Board Chair with the Southside Fire Department, did misappropriate United States Currency belonging to the Southside Fire Department to his own personal use, in violation of Section 17-25-30 (C/L), Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976, as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.

A True Copy
Stephanie C. Kitchens
Clerk of Court
Union County, South Carolina



ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

WITNESSES

S/A T. Peay/SLED

The State of South Carolina
County of Union

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MARCH 30, TERM 2026

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2026-GS-44-0221

THE STATE

vs.

THOMAS EUGENE BISHOP

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: 3-26-26

VERDICT

TRUE BILL

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

Indictment for

EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

SC Code: 16-13-210

CDR Code: 3459

After being fully advised as to my
legal rights, I hereby waive presentment
to the Grand Jury.

Defendant

I
hereby appear in my own proper person and plead
guilty to the within indictment or to

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. PLS. AND G.S.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF UNION)

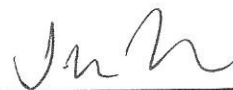
INDICTMENT

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 26, 2026, the Grand Jurors of Union County present upon their oath:

EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

That in Union County, South Carolina, between on or about May 01, 2025 and on or about February 26, 2026, Thomas Eugene Bishop, while occupying the position of Board Chair with the Southside Fire Department, an office charged with the safekeeping, transfer, and disbursement of public funds, did embezzle public funds in an amount in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars, in violation of Section 16-13-210, Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976, as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

A True Copy

Stephanie C. Kitchens
Clerk of Court
Union County, South Carolina