



South Carolina

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
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Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7, 2026

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

SLED CHARGES FORMER CHARLESTON POLICE OFFICER WITH MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Stephen Austin Chavis, 27, with Misconduct in Office on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. The Charleston Police Department requested the SLED investigation.

Details can be found in the attached warrant.

Chavis was booked into the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center in Charleston County.

The case will be prosecuted by the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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SLED news releases are published on SLED's website: www.sled.sc.gov

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

ARREST WARRANT

2026A1010207075

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Charleston

THE STATE

against

Stephen Austin Chavis

Address:

Johns Island, SC 29455-3463

Phone: _____ SSN: _____
 Sex: M Race: W Height: 6 2 Weight: 175
 DL State: SC DL #: _____
 DOB: 1999 Agency ORI #: _____

Prosecuting Agency: Sled Alcohol Enforcement/Vice ServicesProsecuting Officer: Lauren L Pumphrey - S01596Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasanceOffense Code: 0819Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030This 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 STEPHEN CHAVISon 10/7/2024 0613

R. PENNELL

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
 Charleston County Judicial Center
 100 Broad Street, Suite 106
 Charleston, SC 29401

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Charleston

Personally appeared before me the affiant Lauren L Pumphrey whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Stephen Austin Chavisdid within this county and state on or about 8/28/2026

violate the criminal laws of the

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

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:

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Charleston

Affiant's Address 104 Simmons StreetWalterboro, SC 29488-

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 8/28/2026 defendant Stephen Austin Chavis

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

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Charleston) 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 10/6/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge

Martelle T Morrison

Judge Code: 7318

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 5962 Highway 165, Suite 200Ravenel, SC 29470-Judge's Telephone (843)889-8332Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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AFFIDAVIT

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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this County, one, Special Agent Lauren Lance Pumphrey, of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

STEPHEN AUSTIN CHAVIS
W/M DOB: [REDACTED]/1999
DL: SC [REDACTED]

did within this County and State on the 28th day of August 2026, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance
17-25-0030 (Common Law)
CDR: 0819

The affiant states that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on August 28, 2026, while in Charleston County, SC, at [REDACTED] Charleston, SC, defendant, STEPHEN AUSTIN CHAVIS, did commit the offense of **MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE**, to wit:

While employed with the Charleston Police Department and acting in his capacity as a sworn police officer, the defendant, did commit the crime of Misconduct in Office, in that he did willfully and unlawfully commit misconduct in his public office, by acts and omissions of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in breach of his duties to the public. On the above date, the defendant responded to a call for service for a welfare check on a resident at the above address. While at the residence, the defendant received oral sex from the resident on whom he was conducting the welfare check.

The above information was revealed through the investigation by South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Special Agents, is witness to prove the same against the form of the statute in such case made and provided against the peace and dignity of the State.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me
this 28th day of Oct, 2026

[Signature]
Signature of Judge

[Signature]
Special Agent Lauren Lance Pumphrey
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-782-3822