



## South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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

*Henry D. McMaster, Governor*

*Mark A. Keel, Chief*

*Tel: (803) 737-9000*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
December 10, 2021

Contact: Ryan Alphin  
[ralphin@sled.sc.gov](mailto:ralphin@sled.sc.gov)  
(803) 331-5431

### **SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN AIKEN COUNTY**

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division are investigating an incident from Thursday in which shots were exchanged during a confrontation between an armed man and officers from the North Augusta Department of Public Safety. Officers were responding to a call for service for suspicious activity in the area. The suspect, Thomas Michael Airington, was not injured during the incident and was subsequently arrested. A North Augusta Department of Public Safety Officer was shot during the exchange and was transported to the hospital. The officer is expected to survive.

SLED conducts law enforcement officer involved shooting (OIS) investigations at the request of the agency involved in the incident. When requested to investigate an OIS, SLED's goal is to conduct a thorough, independent criminal investigation as timely as is possible under the circumstances. SLED agents will conduct interviews with all potential witnesses in this matter. Further, SLED will collect all relevant evidence and will forensically test such evidence as needed.

Information gathered in the SLED investigation of the incident will be summarized in a case file report to be submitted to prosecutors.

This is an ongoing investigation. As such, no other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time. SLED will defer to the North Augusta Department of Public Safety for any information about their officers.

The incident in Aiken County was the 36<sup>th</sup> officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2021. In 2020, there were 49 officer involved shootings in South Carolina; none involved the North Augusta Department of Public Safety.

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*An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*



ARREST WARRANT

2021A0210700422

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/  Municipality of

Aiken

THE STATE 32-21-0199  
against

Thomas M Airington

Address

Phone SSN  
Sex M Race W Height 5 8 Weight 165  
DL State SC DL #  
DOB 1979 Agency ORI # SCLE0000  
Prosecuting Agency State Law Enforcement Division  
Prosecuting Officer Lawrence A Wiggins - S00860  
Offense Assault / Attempted Murder

Offense Code 3410  
Code/Ordinance Sec 16-03-0029

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.)

Date

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to  
defendant Thomas M Airington  
on 12-9-21 @ 10:17 PM.

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions  
PO Box 583  
109 Park Avenue  
Aiken, SC 29802

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

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by  
S.C. Attorney General  
April 21, 2003  
BDCA 118

Personally appeared before me the affiant Lawrence A Wiggins who  
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Thomas M Airington  
did within this county and state on or about 12/9/2021 violate the criminal laws of the  
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of  County/  Municipality of Aiken )  
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Attempted Murder

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:

Upon information and belief that on December 9, 2021 the defendant, Thomas Michael Airington, did with malice aforethought  
attempt to kill North Augusta Department of Public Safety by pointing firearms and firing multiple rounds towards the officers, one of  
which struck This incident occurring in Aiken County, SC and being in violation of 16-03-0029 South Carolina Code of  
Laws as amended.

Signature of Affiant

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

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 71308  
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 12/9/2021 defendant Thomas M Airington  
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of  
 County/  Municipality of Aiken ) as set forth below

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Assault / Attempted Murder

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 12/9/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge  
Patricia Yvonne Arthur Rushton  
Judge Code 7372

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Langley, SC 29834-  
Judge's Telephone (803)593-5171  
Issuing Court  Magistrate  Municipal  Circuit

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