



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:

April 17, 2023

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information
(803) 260-3020
rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov

SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN BAMBERG COUNTY

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are investigating an officer involved shooting which occurred the morning of Sunday, April 16, 2023, in Bamberg County.

A South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP) trooper conducted a traffic stop on Highway 78 in Denmark, SC, for a speeding vehicle. A deputy with the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) was in the area and stopped to assist the trooper. The driver of the vehicle was later identified as Derrick Gathers, 37. Gathers fired a pistol, shooting the trooper. The trooper and deputy returned fire, striking the vehicle as Gathers drove away. A second SCHP trooper, a second BCSO deputy, and an officer with the Bamberg Police Department located and pursued the vehicle through Bamberg County and into Branchville, SC, in Orangeburg County where Gathers wrecked his vehicle.

Gathers was discharged from MUSC and was transported to the Bamberg County Detention Center, where he was charged with two counts of Attempted Murder, Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime, and Failure to Stop for Blue Lights. The Trooper is currently hospitalized.

This is an ongoing investigation. As such, no other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time.

SLED conducts law enforcement officer involved shooting (OIS) investigations at the request of the agency involved in the incident or the agency with jurisdiction. 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.

The incident in Bamberg County was the 9th officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2023. This is the 2nd officer involved shooting for the South Carolina Highway Patrol this year. This is the 1st officer involved shooting for the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office this year.

In 2022, there were 32 officer involved shootings in South Carolina. The South Carolina Highway Patrol had 1 officer involved shooting last year. The Bamberg County Sheriff's Office had no officer involved shootings last year.

A copy of this news release is also on SLED's website: www.sled.sc.gov

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An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



ARREST WARRANT

2023A0510100080

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

THE STATE

against

Derrick Edward Gathers

Address:

Augusta, GA 30909-

Phone: [] SSN: []

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 170

DL State: [] DL #: []

DOB: [] 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Wayne C Kirby, III - S00297

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.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant D. GATHERS

on 4/17/25

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Bamberg Magistrate
1234 North Street
Post Office Box 187
Bamberg, SC 29003

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

[X] County/ [] Municipality of)

Bamberg)

Personally appeared before me the affiant Wayne C Kirby, III who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Derrick Edward Gathers did within this county and state on or about 4/16/2023 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg) 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:

See Attached Affidavit

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

[X] County/ [] Municipality of)

Bamberg)

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 4/16/2023 defendant Derrick Edward Gathers

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

[X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg) 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 4/16/2023

Judge's Address 2873 Main Highway Bamberg, SC 29003

Judge's Telephone (803)245-3016

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

Richard Craig Threatt

7035

(L.S.)

Signature of Issuing Judge

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

ORIGINAL

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BAMBERG

AFFIDAVIT

SLED CASE# 31-23-0038

Personally appeared before me, a Magistrate of Bamberg County, one SPECIAL AGENT WAYNE KIRBY who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

DERRICK EDWARD GATHERS

Did within this County and State on or about APRIL 16, 2023, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

**DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
ATTEMPTED MURDER
VIOLATION OF SECTION 16-3-29**

The affiant states 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 upon the following facts:

That on or around April 16, 2023, during a lawful traffic stop conducted by the South Carolina Highway Patrol in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue located in the County of Bamberg, State of South Carolina, one DERRICK GATHERS, did commit the offense of **ATTEMPTED MURDER**, in violation of section 16-3-29 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

In that on April 16, 2023 the South Carolina Highway Patrol conducted a traffic stop on a dark in color Mazda SUV with paper tag # [REDACTED] in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue. During the traffic stop, SCHP Trooper B.A. Frazier made contact with the driver of the vehicle, the defendant DERRICK GATHERS. As the Trooper approached the vehicle, the defendant presented a handgun and shot the Trooper in the head with the intent to kill the Trooper. The defendant fired additional rounds at Bamberg County Deputy Sheriff Dwayne Duckson with the intent to kill the deputy. The defendant DERRICK GATHERS then fled the scene in his vehicle.

In that a deputy of the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office located the defendant's vehicle driving at a high rate of speed along Heritage Highway. A vehicle pursuit ensued where the defendant crashed in the area of Edwards Street, Branchville, SC.

In that the defendant was then transported to the Medical University of South Carolina and the incident was captured on the Trooper's body worn camera.

The above information is true and accurate and was obtained through witness statements and the investigation of Senior Special Agent Ryan Kelly and Special Agent Wayne Kirby of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 16th day of April
2023.


SIGNATURE OF JUDGE


(AFFIANT)
S/A Wayne Kirby
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

ARREST WARRANT

2023A0510100081

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

THE STATE

against

Derrick Edward Gathers

Address:

Augusta, GA 30909-

Phone: SSN Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 170

DL State: DL #:

DOB: 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Wayne C Kirby, III - S00297

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.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant D GATHERS

on 4/17/23

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Bamberg Magistrate 1234 North Street Post Office Box 187 Bamberg, SC 29003

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

Personally appeared before me the affiant Wayne C Kirby, III who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Derrick Edward Gathers

did within this county and state on or about 4/16/2023 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg)

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:

See Attached Affidavit

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

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 4/16/2023 defendant Derrick Edward Gathers

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

[X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg) 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 4/16/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge Richard Craig Threatt

Judge Code: 7035

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 2873 Main Highway

Bamberg, SC 29003

Judge's Telephone (803)245-3016

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

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

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BAMBERG

AFFIDAVIT

SLED CASE# 31-23-0038

Personally appeared before me, a Magistrate of Bamberg County, one SPECIAL AGENT WAYNE KIRBY who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

DERRICK EDWARD GATHERS

Did within this County and State on or about APRIL 16, 2023, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

**DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
ATTEMPTED MURDER
VIOLATION OF SECTION 16-3-29**

The affiant states 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 upon the following facts:

That on or around April 16, 2023, during a lawful traffic stop conducted by the South Carolina Highway Patrol in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue located in the County of Bamberg, State of South Carolina, one DERRICK GATHERS, did commit the offense of **ATTEMPTED MURDER**, in violation of section 16-3-29 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

In that on April 16, 2023 the South Carolina Highway Patrol conducted a traffic stop on a dark in color Mazda SUV with paper tag # [REDACTED] in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue. During the traffic stop, SCHP Trooper B.A. Frazier made contact with the driver of the vehicle, the defendant DERRICK GATHERS. As the Trooper approached the vehicle, the defendant presented a handgun and shot the Trooper in the head with the intent to kill the Trooper. The defendant DERRICK GATHERS then fled the scene in his vehicle.

In that a deputy of the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office located the defendant's vehicle driving at a high rate of speed along Heritage Highway. A vehicle pursuit ensued where the defendant crashed in the area of Edwards Street, Branchville, SC.

In that the defendant was then transported to the Medical University of South Carolina and the incident was captured on the Trooper's body worn camera.

The above information is true and accurate and was obtained through witness statements and the investigation of **Senior Special Agent Ryan Kelly and Special Agent Wayne Kirby** of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 16th day of April
2023.


SIGNATURE OF JUDGE


(AFFIANT)
S/A Wayne Kirby
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

ARREST WARRANT

2023A0510100082

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

THE STATE

against

Derrick Edward Gathers

Address:

Augusta, GA 30909-

Phone: [] SSN: [] Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 170 DL State: DL #: DOB: 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division Prosecuting Officer: Wayne C Kirby, III - S00297 Offense: Weapons / Poss. weapon during violent crime, if not also sentenced to life without parole or death Offense Code: 0549 Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-23-0490

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 D. GATHER on 4/17/23

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Bamberg Magistrate 1234 North Street Post Office Box 187 Bamberg, SC 29003

ORIGINAL

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

Personally appeared before me the affiant Wayne C Kirby, III who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Derrick Edward Gathers did within this county and state on or about 4/16/2023 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Poss. weapon during violent crime, if not also sentenced to life without parole or death

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:

See Attached Affidavit.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

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 4/16/2023 defendant Derrick Edward Gathers did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Weapons / Poss. weapon during violent crime, if not also sentenced to life without parole or death

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 4/16/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.) Richard Craig Threatt Judge Code: 7035

Judge's Address 2873 Main Highway Bamberg, SC 29003 Judge's Telephone (803)245-3016

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

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

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BAMBERG

AFFIDAVIT
SLED CASE# 31-23-0038

Personally appeared before me, a Magistrate of Bamberg County, one SPECIAL AGENT WAYNE KIRBY who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

DERRICK EDWARD GATHERS

Did within this County and State on or about APRIL 16, 2023, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
POSSESSION OF A FIREARM DURING THE COMMISSION OF A VIOLENT CRIME
VIOLATION OF SECTION 16-23-490

The affiant states 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 upon the following facts:

That on or around April 16, 2023, during a lawful traffic stop conducted by the South Carolina Highway Patrol in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue located in the County of Bamberg, State of South Carolina, one DERRICK GATHERS, did commit the offense of **POSSESSION OF A FIREARM DURING THE COMMISSION OF A VIOLENT CRIME**, in violation of section 16-23-490 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

In that on April 16, 2023 the South Carolina Highway Patrol conducted a traffic stop on a dark in color Mazda SUV with paper tag # [REDACTED] in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue. During the traffic stop, the SCHP Trooper made contact with the driver of the vehicle, the defendant DERRICK GATHERS. As the Trooper approached the vehicle, the defendant presented a handgun and shot the Trooper in the head with the intent to kill the Trooper. The defendant DERRICK GATHERS then fled the scene in his vehicle.

In that a deputy of the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office located the defendant's vehicle driving at a high rate of speed along Heritage Highway. A vehicle pursuit ensued where the defendant crashed in the area of Edwards Street, Branchville, SC.

In that the defendant was then transported to the Medical University of South Carolina and the incident was captured on the Trooper's body worn camera.

In that the defendant was in possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime, as the defendant attempted to murder the Trooper by shooting him in the head.

The above information is true and accurate and was obtained through witness statements and the investigation of **Senior Special Agent Ryan Kelly and Special Agent Wayne Kirby** of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 16th day of April
2023.


SIGNATURE OF JUDGE



(AFFIANT)

S/A Wayne Kirby
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

ARREST WARRANT

2023A0510100083

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Bamberg

THE STATE

against

Derrick Edward Gathers

Address:

Augusta, GA 30909-

Phone: [] SSN: [] Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 11 Weight: 170 DL State: [] DL #: [] DOB: [] 1986 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division Prosecuting Officer: Wayne C Kirby, III - S00297 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 D. Gathers on 4/17/23

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

Bamberg Magistrate 1234 North Street Post Office Box 187 Bamberg, SC 29003

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

[X] County/ [] Municipality of)

Bamberg)

Personally appeared before me the affiant Wayne C Kirby, III who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Derrick Edward Gathers did within this county and state on or about 4/16/2023 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg) 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:

See Attached Affidavit

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

[X] County/ [] Municipality of)

Bamberg)

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 4/16/2023 defendant Derrick Edward Gathers

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

[X] County/ [] Municipality of Bamberg) 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 4/16/2023)

Signature of Issuing Judge Richard Craig Threatt Judge Code: 7035 (L.S.)

Judge's Address 2873 Main Highway Bamberg, SC 29003 Judge's Telephone (803)245-3016 Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [] Municipal [] Circuit

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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BAMBERG

AFFIDAVIT

SLED CASE# 31-23-0038

Personally appeared before me, a Magistrate of Bamberg County, one SPECIAL AGENT WAYNE KIRBY who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that

DERRICK EDWARD GATHERS

Did within this County and State on or about APRIL 16, 2023, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

**DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
FAILURE TO STOP FOR BLUE LIGHTS
VIOLATION OF SECTION 56-5-750**

The affiant states 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 upon the following facts:

That on or around April 16, 2023, during a lawful traffic stop conducted by the South Carolina Highway Patrol in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue located in the County of Bamberg, State of South Carolina, one DERRICK GATHERS, did commit the offense of **FAILURE TO STOP FOR BLUE LIGHTS**, in violation of section 56-5-750 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

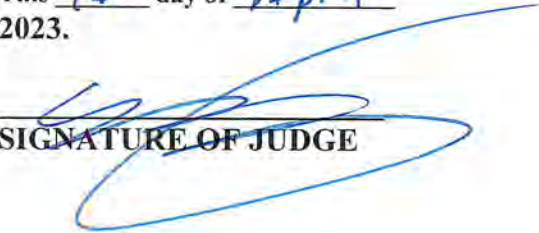
In that on April 16, 2023, the South Carolina Highway Patrol conducted a traffic stop on a dark in color Mazda SUV with paper tag # [REDACTED] in the area of US Highway 78 and Best Friend Avenue. During the traffic stop, the SCHP Trooper made contact with the driver of the vehicle, the defendant DERRICK GATHERS. As the Trooper approached the vehicle, the defendant presented a handgun and shot the Trooper in the head with the intent to kill the Trooper. The defendant DERRICK GATHERS then fled the scene in his vehicle.

In that Corporal Tarter located the defendant's vehicle driving at a high rate of speed down US Highway 78 in Bamberg, South Carolina. A vehicle pursuit ensued where the defendant failed to stop for emergency blue lights and sirens that Cpl. Tarter had activated during the pursuit. The suspect crashed in the area of Edwards Street, Branchville, Orangeburg County, SC.

In that the defendant was then transported to the Medical University of South Carolina and the incident was captured on the Trooper's body worn camera.

The above information is true and accurate and was obtained through witness statements and the investigation of **Senior Special Agent Ryan Kelly and Special Agent Wayne Kirby** of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 16th day of April
2023.


SIGNATURE OF JUDGE


(AFFIANT)
S/A Wayne Kirby
104 Simmons Street
Walterboro, SC 29488