



South Carolina

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

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

WWW.SLED.SC.GOV

(803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2026

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

SLED CHARGES BARNWELL COUNTY MAN WITH MURDER AND POSSESSION OF A WEAPON DURING A VIOLENT CRIME

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Antonio Montavius Battle, 22, with Murder and Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. The Blackville Police Department requested and assisted in the SLED investigation.

Details can be found in the attached warrants.

Battle was booked into the Barnwell County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 2nd Circuit Solicitor's Office.

The Blackville Police Department and the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office assisted in the arrest.

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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

2026A0620200029

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Blackville

THE STATE

against

2026-04932

Antonio Montavious Battle

Address:

Blackville, SC 29817-2233

Phone:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 6 1 Weight: 201

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] 2003 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Mary Kathryn A Mccallister - S00411

Offense: Murder / Murder

Offense Code: 0116

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0010

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 Antonio M. Battle 09/08/24

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
141 Main Street
P O Box 723
Barnwell, SC 29812

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Blackville

Personally appeared before me the affiant Mary Kathryn A Mccallister whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Antonio Montavious Battledid within this county and state on or about 8/8/2026 violate the criminal laws of theState of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of Blackville) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Murder / 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:

That on or about August 8, 2026 between approximately 10:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m., the defendant Antonio M. Battle, did willingly, knowingly, and with malice aforethought violate S.C. Statute 16-3-10 Murder while near Campbell St, Blackville, SC in Barnwell County, SC in the following particulars: That on August 8, 2021, the defendant, Antonio M. Battle shot the victim, David Hammond Jr, causing his death. Hammond, Jr suffered multiple gunshot wounds. Battle was identified through statements and electronic evidence obtained during the investigation. The above facts are true and believable based on the experience, knowledge, and investigation conducted by South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Special Agents and the Blackville Police Department.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Blackville

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 8/8/2026 defendant Antonio Montavious Battle

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

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of Blackville) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Murder / 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 9/8/2026

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Jimmy Wade Gantt Jr. (Municipal)

Judge Code: 6111Judge's Address 5997 Lartigue Street NorthBlackville, SC 29817-1327Judge's Telephone (803)284-3444Issuing Court: ☐ Magistrate ☒ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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

ARREST WARRANT

2026A0620200030

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Blackville

THE STATE

2026-04932

against

Antonio Montavious Battle

Address:

Blackville, SC 29817-2233

Phone:

SSN:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 6 1 Weight: 201

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: 2003 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Mary Kathryn A McCallister - S00411

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 on

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
141 Main Street
P O Box 723
Barnwell, SC 29812

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Blackville

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

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

Personally appeared before me the affiant Mary Kathryn A McCallister who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Antonio Montavious Battle

did within this county and state on or about 8/8/2026 violate the criminal laws of the

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

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:

That on or about August 8, 2026, between approximately 10:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m., the defendant Antonio M. Battle, did willingly, knowingly, and feloniously violate S.C. statute of Possession of a Firearm during Commission of a Violent Crime 16-23-490, while near Campbell St, Blackville, SC in Barnwell County, SC in the following particulars: That on August 8, 2021, the defendant, Antonio M. Battle shot the victim, David Hammond Jr, causing his death. Hammond Jr suffered multiple gunshot wounds. Firearm related evidence was discovered at the scene. Battle was identified through statements and electronic evidence obtained during the investigation. The above facts are true and believable based on the experience, knowledge, and investigation conducted by South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Special Agents and Blackville Police Department.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of

Blackville

Affiant's Address 104 Simmons Street

Walterboro, SC 29488-

Affiant's Telephone

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☐ County/ ☒ Municipality of Blackville) as set forth below:

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

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