

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS**

**APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of General Sessions**

The Honorable Thomas J. Rode, Presiding Judge

RECEIVED

Sep 17 2025

SC Court of Appeals

**INDICTMENTS: 2024GS1004549-50
WARRANTS: 2021A1010206171; 2021A1010206173**

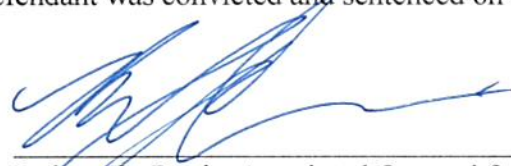
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, RESPONDENT

VS.

WILLIE LEO DARBY, APPELLANT

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Willie Leo Darby appeals his convictions and sentence in this case. The Defendant was found guilty of Murder and Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime. The Honorable Thomas J. Rode sentenced him to forty-five (45) years for the charge of Murder and five (5) years for the charge of Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime to be served consecutively. The Defendant was convicted and sentenced on September 12, 2025.



Rodney D. Davis, Appointed Counsel for Willie Leo Darby
Charleston County Public Defender's Office
101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401

Other counsel of record are:
Ashleigh Brown, Assistant Solicitor
Office of the Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit
O.T. Wallace County Office Building
101 Meeting Street, 4th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1900

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS**

**APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of General Sessions**

The Honorable Thomas J. Rode, Presiding Judge

**INDICTMENTS: 2024GS1004549-50
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, RESPONDENT

VS.

WILLIE LEO DARBY, APPELLANT

RECEIVED

Sep 17 2025

SC Court of Appeals

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on, Ashleigh Brown, Assistant Solicitor for Charleston County, by hand delivering a copy of it to the Charleston County Solicitor's Office at 101 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401, on September 17, 2025.



Kaitlin Kuhn
Paralegal to Rodney D. Davis
Charleston County Public Defender
O. T. Wallace County Office Building
101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1850

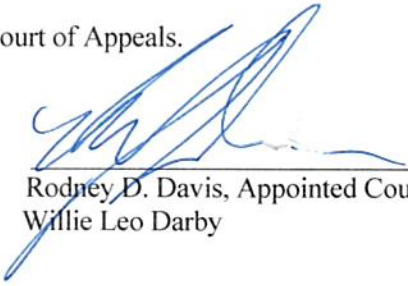
Dated: 9/17/25

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON)	
)	Indictments: 2024GS1004549-50
)	Warrants: 2021A1010206171; 2021A1010206173
)	Charges: Murder; Possession of a Weapon during the
)	Commission of a Violent Crime
)	
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
)	
vs.)	REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION
)	ON APPEAL
WILLIE LEO DARBY,)	
)	
Defendant)	
_____)	

On behalf of the request of the above-named Defendant, to be represented by the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense, the undersigned attorney would show unto this Honorable Court that:

1. He is the attorney for the defendant-appellant in the above captioned case. The defendant has requested to file an appeal with the Clerk of Court and he is filing on his behalf.
2. The defendant-appellant was represented by the Charleston County Public Defender's Office as an indigent, pursuant to the Defense of Indigent Act.
3. The defendant-appellant has been informed that he may request assistance from the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense in perfecting his appeal.
4. A timely Notice of Intention to Appeal has been filed on the defendant's-appellant behalf.
5. The defendant-appellant has been informed that nothing requires that office to pursue this appeal unless that office's Chief Attorney is satisfied that there is arguable merit to this appeal and that he cannot afford to hire an attorney.

At this time, the defendant-appellant requests the aid of the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense in perfecting his appeal to the South Carolina Court of Appeals.



 Rodney D. Davis, Appointed Counsel for
 Willie Leo Darby

Charleston, South Carolina
 Dated: 9/17/25

STATE vs

Willie Leo Darby

AKA: Willie Neal Darby

SSN: [REDACTED]

RACE: [REDACTED]

SEX: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2024-GS-10-04549

) AW#: 2021A1010206171

) Date of Offense: 11/12/2021

) S.C. Code§: 16-03-0010

) CDR Code #: 0116

) Range of Offense: Murder (Death, Life, or NLT 30 years to life)

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was CONVICTED OF or PLEADS

TO: Murder

Range of Offense Pled (Death, Life, or NLT 30 years to life)

In violation of § 16-03-0010 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0116

NON-VIOLENT VIOLENT SERIOUS MOST SERIOUS MANDATORY GPS § 17-25-45
(CSC w/minor 1" or CSC w/minor 3")

The charge is: As indicted Lesser Included Offense Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury

The plea is: w/o Rec/Negotiations Negotiated _____ Recommendation _____

/s/ Ashleigh A. Brown 103609

/s/ Rodney Duane Davis 12396

Solicitor SC Bar #

Attorney for Defendant SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the SCDC County Detention Center Home Incarceration Program
for a determinate term of 40 days/months/~~years~~ Time Served YOANTE _____ years and/or shall pay a fine
of \$ _____, provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment
of \$ _____ plus costs and assessments as applicable*, balance is suspended with probation for _____ months/years
and subject to SCDPPPS standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run CONCURRENT or CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: _____
 The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDC
1,400 days/months To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- PTUP _____
- No Contact with Victim Domestic Violence Intervention Program Hold for Inpatient Treatment
- Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 SAC/MHC if necessary
- Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135
- Other: _____

RESTITUTION See Separate Order (20% per S.C. Code §24-21-490(B))

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)		Restitution	\$ _____
§14-1-211 (A)(1) Conv. Surcharge	Fine/Costs and Assessments are to be paid to the Clerk	FINE	\$ _____
§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	of Court within _____ days/months	\$100	\$ <u>100.00</u>
§56-5-1995 (DUI Assessment)		\$100	\$ _____
§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)		\$12	\$ _____
§14-1-212 (Law Enforcement Funding)		\$25	\$ _____
§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)		\$25	\$ <u>25.00</u>
§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)		\$150	\$ _____
§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)		\$41	\$ _____
§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)		\$50	\$ _____
3% to County (if paid in installments)		\$40/ea	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointed PD or appointed other counsel Proviso requires \$500 to be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees		TBD	\$ <u>3.75</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> §17-3-45(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund		\$500	\$ _____
		TOTAL	\$ <u>128.75</u>

/s/ Shelby Lott
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Cynthia Weaver 27 92
Court Reporter Judge Code

September 17, 2025
Sentence Date [Signature]
Presiding Judge

SCCA217B
01/27/2025

STATE vs.

Willie Leo Darby

AKA: Willie Neal Darby

RACE

SEX

SSN

DOB:

) INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2024-GS-10-04550

) AV#: 2021A1010206173

) Date of Offense: 11/12/2021

) S.C Code§ 16-23-0490

) CDR Code #: 0549

) Range of Offense: Possession Of A Weapon During The Commission Of A Violent Crime (5 Years)

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was CONVICTED OF or PLEADS

TO: Possession Of A Weapon During The Commission Of A Violent Crime Range of Offense Pled (5 Years)

In violation of § 16-23-0490 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0549

NON-VIOLENT VIOLENT SERIOUS MOST SERIOUS MANDATORY GPS § 17-25-45
(CSC w/minor 1" or CSC w/minor 3")

The charge is: As indicted Lesser Included Offense Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury

The plea is: w/o Rec/Negotiations Negotiated _____ Recommendation _____

/s/ Ashleigh A. Brown 103609
Solicitor SC Bar #

/s/ Rodney Duane Davis 12396
Attorney for Defendant SC Bar #

The Defendant is committed to the SCDC County Detention Center Home Incarceration Program
for a determinate term of 5 days/months/years/Time Served YOANTE _____ years and/or shall pay a fine
of \$ _____, provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment
of \$ _____ plus costs and assessments as applicable*, balance is suspended with probation for _____ months/years
and subject to SCDPPPS standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run CONCURRENT or CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: 2024-GS-10-04549

The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDC
1,400 (days/months) To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- PTUP _____
- No Contact with Victim Domestic Violence Intervention Program Hold for Inpatient Treatment
- Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 SAC/MHC if necessary
- Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135
- Other: _____

RESTITUTION See Separate Order (20% per S.C. Code §24-21-490(B))

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)		Restitution	\$ _____
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§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	of Court within _____ days/months		\$ _____
§56-5-1995 (DUI Assessment)		\$100	\$ <u>100.00</u>
§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)		\$100	\$ _____
§14-1-212 (Law Enforcement Funding)		\$12	\$ _____
§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)		\$25	\$ _____
§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)		\$25	\$ <u>25.00</u>
§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)		\$150	\$ _____
§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)		\$41	\$ _____
3% to County (if paid in installments)		\$50	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointed PD or appointed other counsel. Proviso requires \$500 to be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees		\$40/ea	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> §17-3-45(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund		TBD	\$ <u>3.75</u>
		\$500	\$ _____
		\$40	\$ _____
		TOTAL	\$ <u>128.75</u>

/s/ Shelby Holt
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
Cynthia Weaver
Court Reporter

27 92
Judge Code

September 12, 2025
Sentence Date

[Signature]
Presiding Judge

SCCA217B
01/27/2025

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

vs.

WILLIE LEO DARBY

Defendant.

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Indictment No(s): 2024-GS-10-04549
2024-GS-10-04550

VERDICT FORM

Question I: Murder.

As to the offense of Murder, we the jury unanimously find the Defendant:

- 1) _____ Not Guilty (Stop. Your deliberations are done).
- 2) X Guilty (Proceed to Question II)

If you answered "Not Guilty" on the charge of Murder, STOP! Your deliberations are done.

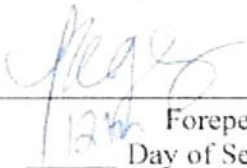
Go to Question II if (and ONLY IF) you answered "Guilty" on the charge of murder.

Question II: Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime.

As to the offense of Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime, we the jury unanimously find the Defendant:

- 1) _____ Not Guilty
- 2) X Guilty

THE VERDICT MUST BE UNANIMOUS. Please notify the Bailiff upon reaching a verdict.



Foreperson Signature
Day of September, 2025
Charleston County, South Carolina

AAB:0386028
WITNESSES

DOCKET NO. 2024-GS-10-04549

North Charleston Police Department

The State of South Carolina

County of Charleston

C. Ross

AGENCY CASE NUMBER

2021-031603

=====

FILED

9/12/2024 11:43:35 AM

JULIE J. ARMSTRONG

CLERK OF COURT

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2021A1010206171

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER TERM 2024

DATE OF ARREST

11/13/2021

THE STATE

VS.

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

TRUE BILL

WILLIE LEO DARBY

[REDACTED]

M. [Signature] SEP 10 2024
Foreperson of Grand Jury Date:

VERDICT

Indictment for

MURDER

SC Code: § 16-03-0010
CDR Code: 0116

Foreperson of Petit Jury Date:

=====

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

INDICTMENT

At a Court of General Sessions, convened September 2024, the Grand Jurors of Charleston County present upon their oath:

Murder

That in Charleston County, South Carolina on or about November 12, 2021, the defendant, Willie Leo Darby with malice aforethought did kill and murder Micheal O'Neal Warren by means of the firing of a handgun, and Micheal O'Neal Warren did die in Charleston County as a proximate result thereof on or about November 12, 2021 in violation of §16-3-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976) as amended.

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


ASHLEIGH A. BROWN
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

AAB/0386028
WITNESSES

DOCKET NO. 2024-GS-10-04550

North Charleston Police Department

The State of South Carolina
County of Charleston

E. Ross

AGENCY CASE NUMBER

2021-031603

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER TERM 2024

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2021A1010206173

DATE OF ARREST

11/13/2021

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

TRUE BILL

THE STATE

VS.

WILLIE LEO DARBY
[REDACTED]

M. Eltz
Foreperson of Grand Jury

SEP 10 2024
Date:

VERDICT

Indictment for

**POSSESSION OF A WEAPON DURING
THE COMMISSION OF A VIOLENT
CRIME**

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

SC Code: § 16-23-0490
CDR Code: 0549

FILED

9/12/2024 11:43:35 AM
JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
CLERK OF COURT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

INDICTMENT

At a Court of General Sessions, convened September 2024, the Grand Jurors of Charleston County present upon their oath:

Possession Of A Weapon During The Commission Of A Violent Crime

That in Charleston County, South Carolina, on or about November 12, 2021, the Defendant, Willie Leo Darby, did possess a firearm or did visibly display what appeared to be a firearm or did visibly display a knife during the commission of or attempted commission of a violent crime, to wit: Murder; in violation of Section 16-23-490, 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.


ASHLEIGH A. BROWN
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

ARREST WARRANT

2021A1010206171

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Charleston

THE STATE

against

Willie Leo Darby

Address

Sex, Race, Height, Weight, DL State, DL #, DOB, Agency ORI #, Prosecuting Agency, Prosecuting Officer, Offense

Offense Code, Code/Ordinance Sec

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

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Charleston

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by U.S. Department of Justice 4-20-21 (2021) SC-CJ-518

Personally appeared before me the affiant: George R Vantine, Jr / J. Pierce who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Willie Leo Darby did within this county and state on or about 11/12/2021 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina for ordinance of County/ Municipality of Charleston 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

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Charleston

Affiant's Address 2500 City Hall Lane North Charleston, SC 29406

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 11/12/2021 defendant Willie Leo Darby 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: 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 11/14/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge, John C. Kenney, Judge Code 7391

(L.S.)

Judge's Address North Charleston, SC 29405

Judge's Telephone (843)746-9822

Issuing Court Magistrate Municipal Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

BAIL set by

WITNESSES

Judge Kennedy
on 11-14-2021
Type and Amount: Held without bond
Name of Surety _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____



PRELIMINARY HEARING held by

Judge _____
on _____
Defendant Attorney _____
Decision _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

DISPOSITION before

Judge _____
on _____
by _____
(indicate jury trial, bench trial, plea, not pros., etc.)
Disposition _____
Sentence _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

JURORS

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

CODEFENDANTS

2021 NOV 19 AM 10:31
JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
CLERK OF COURT
BY _____



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON
CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON

OCA# 2021031603
INV: G. Van Tine

Personally, appeared before me, a magistrate of this County, one J. Pierce who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says that (name of the defendant)

Willie Leo Darby

did within this County and State on the 12th day of November 2021 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
MURDER
16-3-10

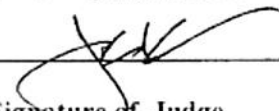
The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on November 12th, 2021 at approximately 3:00 PM, while at 7927 St. Ives Road apt 809, which is located in the City of North Charleston, County of Charleston, State of South Carolina, the defendant, one **Willie Leo Darby**, did knowingly and unlawfully with malice aforethought commit the offense of **MURDER** in violation of **16-3-10** of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976 as amended. In that the defendant did kill the victim, Michael O'Neal Warren, by using a firearm to shoot the victim in the head.

Facts to establish the aforesaid are that on November 13th, 2021 at approximately 8:48 AM officers were dispatched to 7927 St. Ives Road apt 809, Palmetto Grove Apartment Complex, in reference to a victim that was discovered deceased suffering from gunshot wounds to the head. The victim's parents had responded to this location, after they could not reach their son on the phone, and discovered him deceased inside of the apartment. The victim's parents advised that the defendant is the victim's husband and had recently moved out of the apartment. The victim's parents confirmed that the defendant drives a red 2014 Chevrolet Cruze bearing SC tag# UGB623. Patrol officers on scene advised that they had responded to Palmetto Grove Apartment Complex on November 12th, 2021 at approximately 3:14 PM for gunshots being heard in the area, but were unable to locate anything.

On November 13th, 2021 Detectives executed a search warrant on the 7927 St. Ives Road apt 809 and located two 22 caliber spent shell casings near the victim's body. Video surveillance cameras at the entrance of Palmetto Grove Apartments captured the red 2014 Chevrolet Cruze enter the apartment complex at 2:41 PM and then is seen leaving at 3:04PM. The first phone call for shots being fired in the area came into dispatch at 3:05PM.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me
This 14th day of November 2021



Signature of Judge



(AFFIANT)
Address: 2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, S.C. 29406
Phone: 843-554-5700

A witness, later to be identified in court, stated that he was on the phone with the victim on November 12, 2021 at approximately 2:53 PM. The witness stated that the victim told him he had to get off of the phone because his husband, whom is the defendant, had just entered the apartment. The witness stated that he knows the defendant and positively identified him from a single photo.

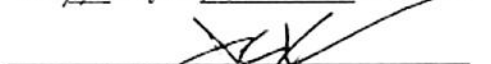
On November 13th, 2021 at approximately 2:30 PM Detectives met with the defendant at 2500 City Hall Lane. The defendant was driving the red 2014 Chevrolet Cruze bearing SC tag# UGB623 when he met with Detectives. The red Chevrolet Cruze was seized pending a search warrant and the defendant was placed into interview room 3 of the Detective Bay. The defendant, post Miranda, admitted that he drives the Chevrolet Cruze and that he drove it on November 12th, 2021. The defendant stated that he drove to work in North Charleston at approximately 7:00AM and then returned to Orangeburg in the afternoon. The defendant advised that at no time on November 12th, 2021 did he drive into the victim's apartment complex. This statement from the defendant was confirmed from the surveillance cameras of Palmetto Grove to be false.

During the search warrant of the 2014 Chevrolet Cruze a lunch box, containing three 22 caliber rounds, was discovered on the passenger side floorboard of the vehicle. The headstamp of the three 22 caliber bullets match the headstamp on the two spent 22 caliber shell casings that were located near the victim's body.

All based on the investigation of Detective G. Van Tine and statements provided by the witness, later to be named in court, who is a witness to prove same. All this done against the law, peace and dignity of the City of North Charleston and the State of South Carolina.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me

This 14th day of November 2021



Signature of Judge



(AFFIANT)

Address: 2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, S.C. 29406
Phone: 843-554-5700

ARREST WARRANT

2021A1010206173

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Charleston

THE STATE

against

Willie Leo Darby

Address [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED] SSN [REDACTED]

Sex [REDACTED] Race [REDACTED] Height [REDACTED] 2 Weight [REDACTED]

Dr. State SC DL # [REDACTED]

DOB [REDACTED] Agency ORI # SC0100800

Prosecuting Agency North Charleston Police Department

Prosecuting Officer George R Vantine, Jr - S00548

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

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [] Municipality of

Charleston

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by U.S. Attorney General April 2003 DCGA 107

Personally appeared before me the affiant George R Vantine, Jr / J. P. Pica who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Willie Leo Darby did within this county and state on or about 11/12/2021 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Charleston) 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

Charleston

Affiant's Address 2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, SC 29406-

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 11/12/2021 defendant Willie Leo Darby did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [] Municipality of Charleston) 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 11/14/2021

Signature of Issuing Judge
John C. Kenney
Judge Code 7391

(L.S.)

Judge's Address North Charleston, SC 29405-
Judge's Telephone (843)746-9822

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

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

BAIL set by

WITNESSES

Judge Kennedy
on 11-14-2021
Type and Amount: Held without bond
Name of Surety _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____



PRELIMINARY HEARING held by

Judge _____
on _____
Defendant Attorney _____
Decision _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

DISPOSITION before

Judge _____
on _____
By _____
(indicate jury trial, bench trial, plea, not pros, etc.)
Disposition _____
Sentence _____

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

JURORS

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

CODEFENDANTS

FILED
2021 NOV 19 AM 10:31
JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
CLERK OF COURT
BY _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON
CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON

OCA# 2021031603
INV: George Van Tine

Personally, appeared before me, a magistrate of this County, one J. Pierce who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says that (name of the defendant)

Willie Leo Darby

did within this County and State on the 12th day of November 2021 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

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

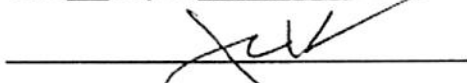
The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on November 12th, 2021 at approximately 3:00 PM, while at 7927 St. Ives Road apt 809, which is located in the City of North Charleston, County of Charleston, State of South Carolina, the defendant, one **Willie Leo Darby**, did knowingly and unlawfully with malice aforethought commit the offense of **POSSESSION OF A FIREARM DURING COMMISSION OF A VIOLENT CRIME** in violation of 16-23-490 of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976 as amended. In that the defendant while armed with a handgun did kill the victim, Michael O'Neal Warren, by shooting him in the head.

Facts to establish the aforesaid are that on November 13th, 2021 at approximately 8:48 AM officers were dispatched to 7927 St. Ives Road apt 809, Palmetto Grove Apartment Complex, in reference to a victim that was discovered deceased suffering from gunshot wounds to the head. The victim's parents had responded to this location, after they could not reach their son on the phone, and discovered him deceased inside of the apartment. The victim's parents advised that the defendant is the victim's husband and had recently moved out of the apartment. The victim's parents confirmed that the defendant drives a red 2014 Chevrolet Cruze bearing SC tag# UGB623. Patrol officers on scene advised that they had responded to Palmetto Grove Apartment Complex on November 12th, 2021 at approximately 3:14 PM for gunshots being heard in the area, but were unable to locate anything.

On November 13th, 2021 Detectives executed a search warrant on the 7927 St. Ives Road apt 809 and located two 22 caliber spent shell casings near the victim's body. Video surveillance cameras at the entrance of Palmetto Grove Apartments captured the red 2014 Chevrolet Cruze enter the apartment complex at 2:41 PM and then is seen leaving at 3:04PM. The first phone call for shots being fired in the area came into dispatch at 3:05PM.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me
This 14th day of November 2021



Signature of Judge



(AFFIANT)
Address: 2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, S.C. 29406
Phone: 843-554-5700

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON
CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON

AFFIDAVIT
OCA#2021031603
Det. Van Tine

A witness, later to be identified in court, stated that he was on the phone with the victim on November 12, 2021 at approximately 2:53 PM. The witness stated that the victim told him he had to get off of the phone because his husband, whom is the defendant, had just entered the apartment. The witness stated that he knows the defendant and positively identified him from a single photo.

On November 13th, 2021 at approximately 2:30 PM Detectives met with the defendant at 2500 City Hall Lane. The defendant was driving the red 2014 Chevrolet Cruze bearing SC tag# UGB623 when he met with Detectives. The red Chevrolet Cruze was seized pending a search warrant and the defendant was placed into interview room 3 of the Detective Bay. The defendant, post Miranda, admitted that he drives the Chevrolet Cruze and that he drove it on November 12th, 2021. The defendant stated that he drove to work in North Charleston at approximately 7:00AM and then returned to Orangeburg in the afternoon. The defendant advised that at no time on November 12th, 2021 did he drive into the victim's apartment complex. This statement from the defendant was confirmed from the surveillance cameras of Palmetto Grove to be false.

During the search warrant of the 2014 Chevrolet Cruze a lunch box, containing three 22 caliber rounds, was discovered on the passenger side floorboard of the vehicle. The headstamp of the three 22 caliber bullets match the headstamp on the two spent 22 caliber shell casings that were located near the victim's body.

All based on the investigation of Detective G. Van Tine and statements provided by the witness, later to be named in court, who is a witness to prove same. All this done against the law, peace and dignity of the City of North Charleston and the State of South Carolina.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me
This 14th day of November 2021



Signature of Judge



(AFFIANT)
Address: 2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, S.C. 29406
Phone: 843-554-5700

**CHARLESTON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
O. T. WALLACE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
101 MEETING STREET
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401**

(843) 958-1850

FAX (843) 958-1860

September 17, 2025

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, South Carolina Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina, 29211

RECEIVED

Sep 17 2025

SC Court of Appeals

Re: *State of South Carolina vs. Willie Leo Darby*
Indictments: 2024GS1004549-50
Warrants: 2021A1010206171; 2021A1010206173
Charges: Murder; Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed is the Notice of Intent to Appeal in the above-referenced case, together with appropriate Proof of Service upon the Circuit Solicitor and Proof of Filing with the local Clerk of Court. Also enclosed is a Request for Representation on Appeal and a copy of the Court's sentence. The Defendant-Appellant was represented by our office as an indigent, pursuant to the Defense of Indigents Act. By copy of this letter, I am forwarding a duplicate set of these documents to the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense.

The Request for Representation on Appeal, and the Affidavit in support thereof, have been signed by me as attorney for the Defendant-Appellant.

As proof of filing for my records, I would appreciate it if one of your Clerks would clock the enclosed copy of this letter and return it to me in the envelope I have provided. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rodney D. Davis, Appointed Counsel for Willie Darby
Charleston County Public Defender's Office
101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401

Enclosures as stated above

cc: South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense

**CHARLESTON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
O. T. WALLACE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
101 MEETING STREET
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401**

(843) 958-1850

FAX (843) 958-1860

September 17, 2025

South Carolina Office of Appellate Defense
Attn: Ms. Paula Murdugh
PO Box 11589
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: *State of South Carolina vs. Willie Leo Darby*
Indictments: 2024GS1004549-50
Warrants: 2021A1010206171; 2021A1010206173
Charges: Murder; Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime

Dear Ms. Murdugh:

Enclosed herein is a duplicate set of the Appeal papers which I have forwarded to the Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals concerning the above-subject defendant. This defendant was represented by our office as an indigent, pursuant to the Defense of Indigents Act. It is requested that your office assume the Appeal of this case.

The name of the Court Reporter is Cynthia Weaver, 1220 Senate St., Suite 200, Columbia, SC 29201. I have enclosed documents usually requested by your office. Documents listed but not applicable to this particular case have been marked "N/A."

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rodney D. Davis, Appointed Counsel for Willie Darby
Charleston County Public Defender's Office
101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401

Enclosures as stated above