

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **FILED** IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
 COLUMBUS COUNTY 2022 DEC 29 A 9: FILE NO. SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

COLUMBUS CO., C.S.C

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,)	VERIFIED PETITION FOR
Petitioner)	REMOVAL AND PERMANENT
)	DISQUALIFICATION
v.)	PURSUANT TO
)	N.C.G.S. § 128-16, ET.SEQ. and
S. JODY GREENE,)	N.C. CONST. ART. VI, § 8
Defendant.)	and
)	MOTION TO IMMEDIATELY
)	SUSPEND FROM OFFICE

NOW COMES the State of North Carolina through the Honorable Jon David, District Attorney, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16 et seq and the North Carolina State Constitution, Article VI, § 8, and asks this Court to immediately suspend Defendant and thereafter remove and permanently disqualify Defendant from the office of Columbus County Sheriff. In support of this petition, upon information and belief the State shows the following:

1. S. Jody Greene (hereinafter "Greene" or "Defendant") is the duly elected Sheriff of Columbus County, North Carolina, having been administered the Oath of Office on 29 December 2022.
2. Jon David is the duly elected District Attorney of the Fifteenth Prosecutorial District and files this petition pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-17 and N.C. Const. art. VI, § 8.
3. Greene must be removed and permanently disqualified from the office of Columbus County Sheriff pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16 and N.C. Const. art. VI, § 8.
4. The Rules of Civil Procedure do not apply to a proceeding under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16 et seq. State ex rel. Leonard v. Huskey, 65 N.C. App. 550, 552, 309 S.E.2d 726, 727 (1983).
5. A proceeding under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16 et seq is not a criminal proceeding but is an "inquiry into the conduct of the officeholder to determine whether he is unfit to continue in office." Huskey at 554, 309 S.E.2d at 728; see also State v. Hockaday, 265 N.C. 688, 690, 144 S.E.2d 867, 869 (1965).
6. The holding by the North Carolina Court of Appeals that permits an elected clerk of superior court to be "permanently removed" under N.C. Const. art. VI, § 8 as being disqualified from holding "any office" for being "adjudged guilty of

corruption or malpractice in office” is directly applicable to the removal of an elected sheriff. In re Chastain, 281 N.C. App. 520, 524 (2022).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

7. On 4 October 2022, Greene was the duly elected Sheriff of Columbus County, North Carolina, having first taken office in 2018, and was subsequently administered the Oath of Office in December of that same year.
8. On 4 October 2022, the State filed a verified petition for removal of Greene as Sheriff of Columbus County, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16 et seq.
9. That same date, 4 October 2022, the Honorable Douglas B. Sasser, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, entered an Order immediately suspending Greene from the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County “pending the hearing and final determination of the Petition for Removal of said Sheriff.” The Order set the hearing for the final determination of the removal petition for 24 October 2022. (Exhibit A)
10. Prior to the hearing, on 21 October 2022, the State filed an amended verified petition for removal under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16 et seq.
11. The State appeared at the hearing scheduled by the Court, ready to proceed on 24 October 2022. Immediately prior to the State calling its first witness, Defendant requested a fifteen-minute recess. After the recess, and prior to any witness being called to testify, Greene resigned as Sheriff of Columbus County. (Exhibit B)
12. After Greene’s resignation, the State filed a voluntary dismissal of the petition to remove. (Exhibit C)
13. Due to Greene’s resignation, no “final determination of the Petition for Removal” was issued by the Superior Court on either the initial or amended petitions.

CAUSES FOR REMOVAL AND PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION UNDER N.C. GEN. STAT. § 128-16 AND N.C. CONST. ART. VI, § 8

- I. **DEFENDANT HAS COMMITTED REPEATED ACTS OF WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OR MALADMINISTRATION IN OFFICE IN VIOLATION OF N.C.G.S. § 128-16 (2) AND HAS COMMITTED REPEATED ACTS THAT SHOULD RESULT IN DEFENDANT BEING ADJUDGED AS GUILTY OF CORRUPTION OR MALPRACTICE IN OFFICE PURSUANT TO CONST. ART. VI, § 8.**

A. Defendant's highly inappropriate and racially charged statements¹

14. The District Attorney's Office received an audio recording from the State Bureau of Investigation of a phone conversation in which Defendant made a series of highly inappropriate and racially charged statements. These statements were purportedly made in 2019 during a time in which Defendant was temporarily suspended from office pending the resolution of a State Board of Elections inquiry concerning Defendant's residency status.

- a. Defendant, convinced there was a leak in his office, sought phone records from Verizon apparently to ascertain whether Lewis Hatcher, Columbus County's first African American Sheriff, or Melvin Campbell, an African American Sergeant, and other African American employees had been undermining Defendant's authority as the Sheriff.
- b. Defendant's statements include the following:
 - i. "I'm sick of it. I'm sick of these Black bastards. I'm gonna clean house and be done with it. And we'll start from there."
 - ii. "They're gone. I'm telling you. That's as fair as I'm gonna be. Just giving you a heads up, that's coming. When me and Boyd and Angie go through it tomorrow, the first numbers we see, they're gone. They ain't gonna make it brother. I'm telling you, they might as well find somewhere else to go. Because if you ain't with me - I ain't referring to you - but if they're not with me, they're against me. And they're gone. And that's just how it's gonna be. Clarity - whatever her name is, I don't trust her. Dawn says she's racist... It's gonna be my way or it's gonna be no way...If I have to fire every mother fucker out there, guess what?"
 - iii. "I'm tired of them fucking with me. It ain't happening no more. No goddamn more. So you let them know, if I find their numbers in the next day or two, they ain't gonna like it. They damn sure ain't gonna like it. And that's got to be somebody in the command staff. Clarity. I don't trust her. She's just sitting there staring at me the other day, the whole

¹ These acts were the subject of the initial petition filed 4 October 2022, that resulted in a temporary suspension. Because Defendant resigned from office prior to the hearing on the final determination of removal, no final ruling on these allegations has been entered.

time. Staring at me the whole fucking time,” [apparently referring to former detention officer Augustine Clarida, an African American].

- iv. “Tomorrow’s gonna be a new fucking day. I’m still the motherfucking sheriff, and I’ll go up and fire every goddamn [inaudible]. Fuck them Black bastards. They think I’m scared? They’re stupid. I don’t know what else to do with it. So it’s just time to clean them out. There’s a snitch in there somewhere tellin’ what we are doing. And I’m not gonna have it. I’m not gonna have it.”
- v. “The only thing I know to do is pull phone records and start checking. I ain’t putting trackers on people but phone records tell the deal... So, just give them a heads up, hell is coming I promise. As soon as I find out who it is they ain’t gonna like it. You [Interim Sheriff] Jason [Soles] and [Chief Deputy] Aaron [Herring] put your heads together tomorrow and see if y’all can figure out who it is.
- vi. “Melvin Campbell, Lewis Hatcher they’re fired. They’re gonna be guilty by fucking association”.
- vii. “I ain’t gonna have it. I’m gonna cut the snake’s fucking head off. Period... And Melvin Campbell is as big a snake as Lewis Hatcher ever dared to be. Every Black that I know, you need to fire him to start with, he’s a snake! I’m gonna keep my part. Watch what I tell you.”.
- viii. “But you and Aaron get together in the morning and Bobby see if you can figure out who it is.”
- c. Upon information and belief, at least one African American employee of the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office was terminated subsequent to the above referenced audio recording.
- d. Clementine Brown, an African American, had been employed at the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office since 1998. Brown served numerous positions in the detention center during her years of service and was ultimately appointed Captain over the Columbus County Detention Center by Sheriff Chris Batten. Brown remained Captain over the Columbus County Detention Center under Sheriff Lewis Hatcher. In January of 2019, after Defendant assumed the

Office of Sheriff of Columbus County, Brown was informed by Defendant that she was no longer Captain of the Columbus County Detention Center. As a result of Brown's demotion, she received a \$10,000 decrease in her annual salary. Brown was later terminated in July of 2020 by Defendant.

- e. Clementine Brown (Exhibit D) and Andre Jackson (Exhibit E) completed affidavits in reference to the above charges against Defendant. The affidavits of Brown and Jackson are attached to this petition and are incorporated herein by reference.
 - f. Defendant has personally, and by directing those under his command, engaged in racial profiling of Columbus County Sheriff's Office employees.
15. Equal treatment for all North Carolina citizens is mandated by the federal constitution and also our state constitution.

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws;
nor shall any person be subjected to discrimination by the
State because of race, color, religion, or national origin.

N.C. Const. Art. I, § 19

16. The conduct of law enforcement officers must live up to that mandate and ensure fairness and equal treatment under the law. What the Supreme Court of North Carolina has stated about District Attorneys applies equally to Sheriffs.

When considering the often-unrestrained powers that the people have given our district attorneys in our Constitution and statutes, it is paramount that the office of district attorney be held in a manner that exemplifies fairness and equal justice under the law.

In re Spivey, 345 N.C. 404, 416, 480 S.E.2d 693, 699-700 (1997)

B. Defendant's acts of intimidation and abuse of the authority of his office²

17. Prior to the hearing scheduled by the Court for 24 October 2022, on the State's initial Petition to Remove Defendant, numerous individuals disclosed a concern about Defendant and his agents engaging in intimidation and abusing Defendant's authority granted to him by way of his elected office for personal and/or political gain.

² Allegations relating to these acts were in the amended petition filed 21 October 2022. Because Defendant resigned from office prior to the hearing on the final determination of removal, no ruling of any kind on these allegations has been entered by the Court.

- a. On or about November of 2019, Whiteville City Manager Darren Currie received an irate phone call from Defendant. During the phone call, Defendant was angry that the Whiteville Police Department had hired former Columbus County Sheriff's Office Captain Jason Soles. Defendant stated that Soles was not permitted "on his property" after Soles visited the Columbus County Magistrate's Office within the Columbus County Jail on official police business. Defendant then threatened to have Soles arrested and impound the city of Whiteville's police car if Soles returned to the Columbus County Jail.
- b. Whiteville City Manager Darren Currie completed an affidavit (Exhibit F) in reference to the above charges against Defendant. The affidavit of Currie is attached to this petition and is incorporated herein by reference.
- c. Jesse Lee Croom is the stepfather of Jason Soles. On or about March 2, 2020, Croom attended a public meeting of the Columbus County Commissioners. Some of the speakers voiced frustration at this meeting about Defendant's desire to obtain control of the Columbus County Animal Shelter. When exiting the meeting, and while outside of the Commissioner's Chambers, Croom told Defendant that he "needed to grow up". Croom was immediately arrested by deputies. After his arrest, Croom was taken before a Columbus County magistrate for the issuance of an arrest warrant, based on his conduct. There was considerable delay at the magistrate's office as deputies searched for a general statute that had been violated. Croom was eventually charged with Disorderly Conduct in a Public Building. The warrant that was issued for Croom was subsequently dismissed by a district court judge on or about June 10, 2020, for being facially deficient to state a criminal charge.
- d. Jesse Lee Croom completed an affidavit (Exhibit G) in reference to the above charges against Defendant. The affidavit of Croom is attached to this petition and is incorporated herein by reference.
- e. Former County Commissioner Paisley Edwin Russ provided the District Attorney's Office with an audio recording of a phone conversation between Russ and Defendant that occurred sometime during the summer of 2020 while Russ was still in office. In the recording, Defendant can be heard cursing at Russ about the County Commissioners' recent vote against providing significant pay increases and riot gear to the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, requested by Defendant. Defendant can be heard making threats to remove Sheriff's Office equipment used to outfit a school campus

within the county that had been converted to a court facility in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Defendant also made threats to call OSHA to inspect the current Sheriff's Office facilities, thereby creating the potential for fines and other sanctions to be incurred by the county. Finally, Defendant also threatened to have one of the Commissioners arrested for possession of stolen property, for which Defendant claimed to have knowledge.

f. Defendant's statements included the following:

- i. "...those air conditioners we have over there with the court, we are going to get them tomorrow. If the County Commissioners don't think no more of us and we're saving them \$90,000 we gonna go get our stuff back... I'm not going to do anything to help the County Commissioners... Tomorrow morning my transfer truck is going to be sitting there to load them up and bring them back to the office."
- ii. Russ then stated, "Jody, I wish you wouldn't do that." Defendant responded, "Edwin, I wish y'all kept your word...our people need money...I told them I was going to leave the building alone, but I can get that building shut back down just like it was in 2006."
- iii. "I promise you when I get through tomorrow...you want to be in the paper we gonna be in the paper...Tell them to take their goddamn \$10,000 and stick it up their ass..."
- iv. "if they want to play like that, I'm not doing a fucking thing for Buddy Byrd...you think I'm gonna help them save money and they are screwing me? Absolutely not!"
- v. "They gonna spend some money I promise you. When OSHA says that building is uninhabitable...and I got the stuff to do it with... They want to keep on playing... I can't believe how stupid, it's stupid, it's corrupt..."
- vi. When Russ begins to ask about the air conditioning units, Greene stated, "That's mine. That's mine...That's mine. That's coming from the military."

- vii. “That James Prevatte (Former County Commissioner) is a lying bastard...He’s a fucking thief and liar...Just like that stolen building that’s lying behind where his lawyer daughter in law lives. Yea he stole that building there too... I can tell you all about it. The company is down here now. I’m trying to get them to press charges. Let them keep playing.”
- viii. “You should have stood with us Edwin. I’m just gonna go ahead and tell you...I’m not going to help this county do shit.”
- g. At a subsequent commissioner’s meeting, Defendant allowed several of the officers under his employ to line up in an apparent attempt to intimidate the County Commissioners. (Exhibit H)
- h. Paisley Edwin Russ completed an affidavit (Exhibit I) in reference to the above charges against Defendant. The affidavit of Russ is attached to this petition and is incorporated herein by reference.
- i. Defendant, by and through his agents, did seek felony criminal charges against Commissioner Giles “Buddy” Byrd, not Commissioner James Prevatte as Greene referenced in the phone call to Russ. However, Charles Spahos, a conflict prosecutor with the Conference of District Attorneys, evaluated the case and determined that there was insufficient evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt against Commissioner Byrd and entered a voluntary dismissal. At the time of entering the dismissal, Spahos advised the charging detective with the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office that there could be sufficient evidence to charge and convict an acquaintance of Commissioner Byrd, if the detective wished to conduct further investigation. The Columbus County Sheriff’s Office did not conduct further investigation as advised by Spahos. When advising the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office that he would be entering a dismissal against Byrd, Spahos was questioned by deputies about his decision to dismiss and was asked who supervised him. (Of note, Defendant initially told Russ that a criminal probe was being directed at Commissioner Prevatte. In fact, the identical subject matter referenced in this call was later used as the basis for the criminal charges against Commissioner Byrd. This confusion underscores that Defendant’s true motivation in bringing criminal charges was to gain unfair leverage against all County Commissioners, rather than solve a crime.)

- j. Chief Financial Crimes Resource Prosecutor Charles Spahos completed an affidavit (Exhibit J) in reference to the above charges against Defendant. The affidavit of Spahos is attached to this petition and is incorporated herein by reference.
- k. County Commissioner Giles “Buddy” Byrd completed an affidavit (Exhibit K) in reference to the above charges against Defendant. The affidavit of Byrd is attached to this petition and is incorporated herein by reference.

C. Defendant engaged in a sexual relationship with a subordinate officer in his employ that interfered with the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office³

- 18. Upon information and belief, Defendant engaged in a sexual relationship with Columbus County Sherriff’s Office Detective Samantha Hickman while Hickman was under his employ and supervision. The sexual relationship spanned numerous months and interfered with the necessary and proper administration of the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office. This included engaging in sex acts while both Defendant and Hickman were on duty.
- 19. Victor Jacobs completed an affidavit (Exhibit L) in reference to the above allegations against Defendant. The affidavit of Jacobs is attached to this petition and is incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, the State has independent corroborating evidence of the relationship between Defendant and Hickman to include, among other evidence, two recorded phone conversations.

D. Defendant’s willful neglect in the supervision of officers under his command resulted in a significant inmate injury in the Columbus County Detention Center⁴

- 20. On or about August 3, 2022, the District Attorney’s Office was notified by Defendant that an inmate under Defendant’s care and control, housed in the Columbus County Detention Center was assaulted by four other inmates, and suffered a traumatic brain injury.
- 21. The District Attorney’s Office made a concurrent request with Defendant for the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation to perform an independent investigation into the assault.

³ Allegations relating to these acts were in the amended petition filed 21 October 2022. Because Defendant resigned from office prior to the hearing on the final determination of removal, no ruling of any kind on these allegations has been entered by the Court.

⁴ Allegations relating to these acts were in the amended petition filed 21 October 2022. Because Defendant resigned from office prior to the hearing on the final determination of removal, no ruling of any kind on these allegations has been entered by the Court.

22. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation sent agents to the Columbus County Detention Center to perform interviews and gather relevant information in relation to the assault and the overall administration of the detention center.
23. Through their investigation, agents were able to determine that four other inmates were responsible for the assault. Additionally, agents found that the victimized inmate had made a request to detention center staff to be moved out of the pod he was housed in immediately prior to the assault, for concerns of his safety. Further, agents gathered data from detention center staff that showed officers failed to perform mandatory checks on inmates as required by statewide policies and procedures. This failure to perform mandatory checks was not isolated to this particular incident, but appeared to show a habitual failure to provide adequate supervision of inmates in the weeks prior to the assault. A video depicting the area in which the assault occurred, and the aftermath of the assault corroborated the data received from detention staff showing that no officer observed or responded to the assault or the injured inmate for approximately 20 minutes.
24. The assaulted inmate was hospitalized for numerous days with a serious brain injury as a result of the beating he sustained.
25. The District Attorney and members of his staff met with Defendant and the State Bureau of Investigation to alert him of the findings of the investigation. Defendant was visibly upset and indicated that the lack of response from detention center staff was troubling and problematic. The District Attorney requested Defendant provide him with subsequent remedial measures taken as a result of this investigation by December of 2022. Defendant agreed to this request.
26. It is the responsibility of Defendant to oversee officers in his employ and ensure a safe environment within the Columbus County Detention Center for inmates and staff. Defendant has failed to properly supervise officers in his employ and permitted dangerous, and potentially deadly conditions to exist in the Columbus County Detention Center.

II. BY HIS ACTIONS, DEFENDANT HAS ALSO VIOLATED N.C.G.S. § 128-16 (1) AND 16 (3).

27. The acts committed by Defendant as listed above also constitute corruption while in office in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16(3).
28. The acts committed by Defendant as listed above also constitute “willful or habitual neglect or refusal to perform the duties of his office” in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-16(1).

III. DEFENDANT’S ACTIONS CONSTITUTE WILLFUL MISCONDUCT, CORRUPTION, AND MALPRACTICE IN OFFICE SUCH THAT HE

SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF OF COLUMBUS COUNTY UNDER OUR STATE CONSTITUTION.

29. The North Carolina State Constitution holds that “any person who has been adjudged guilty of corruption or malpractice in any office” will “be disqualified for office.” N.C. Const. Art. VI, § 8.
30. Acts of misconduct which rise to the level of willful misconduct are equivalent to an adjudication of malpractice in any office. In re Chastain, 281 N.C. App. 520, 527, 869 S.E. 2d 738, 744 (2022); In re Peoples, 296 N.C. 109, 165 250 S.E. 2d 890, 922 (1978).
31. Defendant’s actions, as described above, constitute “willful misconduct which are egregious in nature”. In re Chastain, 281 N.C. App. 520, 528, 869 S.E.2d 738, 744 (2022).
32. These acts committed by Defendant should result in Defendant being “adjudged guilty of corruption or malpractice in office” under N.C. Const. Art. VI, § 8.

CONCLUSION

33. Numerous individuals completed affidavits (Exhibits M – T) in reference to the above allegations against Defendant. Those affidavits are attached to this petition and are incorporated herein by reference
34. The State reserves the right to amend the above referenced allegations and attach additional affidavits in support of the above allegations pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 128-18.
35. The District Attorney’s Office has formally requested that the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation investigate the conduct of Defendant and deputies under his command. This investigation commenced on 27 September 2022.⁵
36. The District Attorney, based on the above conduct by Defendant, has complied with the requirements and obligations placed upon him by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 17E-16 and Giglio v. United States, 405 U.S. 150, 92 S. Ct. 763 (1972) regarding the requirement to report material relevant to testimony involving Defendant as a witness. Those letters were sent out on 21 October 2022.
37. Defendant has demonstrated on numerous occasions that he is willing to misuse the power and authority inherent to the office of Sheriff for improper personal and political gain. Defendant is an independent constitutionally elected officer and has considerable autonomy. He has used his office to hire and fire deputies based on

⁵ Removal from office under Section 128-16 does not exempt a person from criminal prosecution. State v. Hockaday, 265 N.C. 688, 691, 144 S.E.2d 867, 870 (1965).

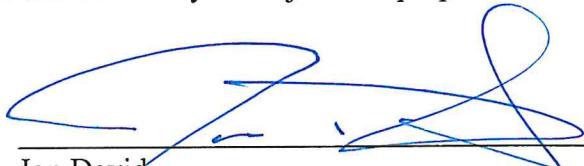
race and to curry political favor. He has abused his power to decide which laws are enforced and against whom they are enforced. He has chilled the first amendment right of free speech, attempted to improperly influence his negotiations with County Commissioners, and unfairly targeted and unjustly arrested citizens.

38. The misconduct of Defendant brings his office into contempt and renders him unable to properly conduct the duties of his office. This Court must immediately suspend him and order a hearing to adjudicate his removal and permanent disqualification from the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County.
39. Each of the grounds identified above independently and considered alone justify Defendant's immediate suspension, removal from office, and permanent disqualification from the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County as soon as possible.
40. Nothing is more fundamental to the fabric of our democracy than equal protection under the laws and the fair and impartial administration of justice. A diverse cross-section of citizens from Columbus County have presented clear and convincing evidence that Defendant has engaged in long term and widespread conduct that evinces a pattern of racial discrimination, vindictiveness towards perceived political opponents, and maladministration in office. Our Constitution establishes a government of checks and balances. It is incumbent upon the judiciary to remove and permanently disqualify Defendant as he is wholly unfit to hold the high office of Sheriff of Columbus County.

WHEREFORE, the State of North Carolina prays for the following relief:

1. That the court consider this verified petition, and the allegations made herein as the affidavit of Petitioner pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 128-19; and
2. That the Court immediately suspend Defendant, S. Jody Greene, from the office of Columbus County Sheriff pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 128-19; and
3. That the Court conduct a hearing, after the entry of a scheduling order, during a session of Columbus County Superior Court concerning the removal from office and permanent disqualification of Defendant from the office of Sheriff of Columbus County; and
4. For such other and further relief as to the Court may seem just and proper.

This the 29th day of December, 2022.



Jon David
District Attorney, 15th District
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

VERIFICATION

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS

Jon David, District Attorney for Prosecutorial District 15, on the behalf of the State of North Carolina, Petitioner in the above-entitled action, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he has read the foregoing verified Petition for Removal and Motion to Suspend Sheriff S, Jody Greene; that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to matters and things therein alleged upon information and belief and, as to such matters and things so alleged, he believes them to be true.

This the 20th day of December, 2022.



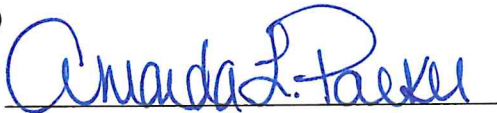
Jon David
District Attorney, 15th District
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this

20th day of December, 2022.

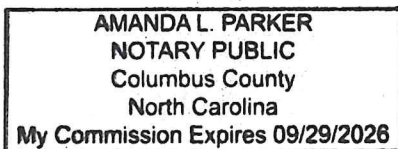
(Official Seal)

Notary Public



My Commission expires

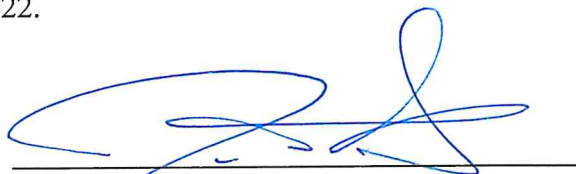
9/29/2026



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT the undersigned will serve a copy of this Petition for Removal and Motion to Immediately Suspend from Office by having the Defendant, or an employee at the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, hand served by an agent with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation or a staff member of the District Attorney's Office.

This the 29th day of December, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon David', is written over a horizontal line.

Jon David
District Attorney, 15th District
111 Washington Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
COLUMBUS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.: 22WS990
FILED

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA 2022 OCT -4 P 3:53
Ex. Rel. JON DAVID,)
DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR COLUMBUS CO., C.S.C.)
PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT,)
Plaintiff JCH)
VS.) ORDER PURSUANT TO
N.C.G.S. § 128-19
S. JODY GREENE, SHERIFF OF)
COLUMBUS COUNTY,)
Defendant.)

THIS MATTER, having come on before the Honorable Douglas B. Sasser, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, in chambers, pursuant to Plaintiff's Petition for the Removal of S. Jody Greene from the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County, North Carolina; and it appearing to the Court that said petition was filed pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 128-16, et. seq. on October 4th, 2022, and includes a motion and request for the immediate suspension of S. Jody Greene from the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 128-19; and it further appearing to the Court that said Petition is a verified complaint, which the Court considers to be a sworn Affidavit of Plaintiff under N.C.G.S. § 128-19, setting forth described conduct of said Sheriff; and the Court, upon consideration of the Petition and Verification presented in support of the allegations, finds sufficient cause to immediately suspend S. Jody Greene from the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that S. Jody Greene be immediately suspended from the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County, and the vacancy of Columbus County Sheriff be filled forthwith as by law provided, pending the hearing and final determination of the Petition of Removal of said Sheriff, which shall be held in Courtroom C of the Columbus County Courthouse on the 24th day of October, 2022, at 10:00 AM or as soon thereafter as possible; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Superior Court, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 162-16, shall serve a copy of this order on all parties, as well as the County Manager of Columbus County.

This ORDER is hereby entered by the Court this the 4th day of October, 2022, at 3:38 o'clock PM.



The Honorable Douglas B. Sasser
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

EXHIBIT B

I hereby resign the Office of Sheriff of Columbus County for the term elected in November 2018 effective immediately.

This the 24th day of October, 2022 at 10:51 AM.

S. Jody Greene
S. Jody Greene

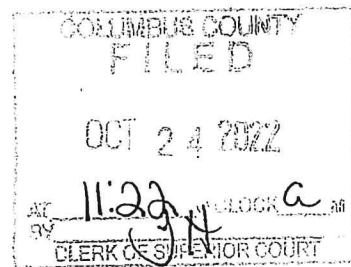


EXHIBIT C

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COLUMBUS COUNTY

FILED

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

FILE NO.: 22CVS990

2022 OCT 25 P 1:55

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Ex. Rel. JON DAVID.

COLUMBUS CO., C.S.C

DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE 15th

PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT.

Plaintiff

~~VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL~~

VS.

S. JODY GREENE, SHERIFF OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY.

Defendant.


NOW COMES the State of North Carolina, by and through Elected District Attorney Jon David and enters a voluntary dismissal, without prejudice, in the above captioned case. The State shows unto the court the following:

1. That the State filed the above referenced Petition to Remove Defendant as Sheriff of Columbus County on or about October 4, 2022.
2. That the State subsequently filed an Amended Petition to Remove Defendant as Sheriff of Columbus County on or about October 21, 2022.
3. That a hearing date was set for the above referenced Petition to Remove on October 24, 2022.
4. That the State appeared in the Columbus County Superior Court on October 24, 2022, ready to proceed on its Petition to Remove Defendant.
5. That at the time the State was prepared to call its first witness, the Defendant requested a 15-minute recess.
6. That after such recess, Defendant tendered his resignation to his current term of office to the Columbus County Commissioners, effective immediately.
7. That the Defendant's resignation from his current term of office renders the State's Petition to Remove moot.
8. That the State enters this voluntary dismissal without prejudice.

9. That the State reserves the right to file a new Petition to Remove, based on the same charges in the above captioned case, should Defendant resume the office of Sheriff of Columbus County in any future term.

THEREFORE, the State enters a voluntary dismissal in this matter, without prejudice.

This the 24th day of October, 2022.



Jon David
District Attorney

EXHIBIT D

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Clementine Brown

I, Clementine Brown, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a result of my employment with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
3. I identify as a black female.
4. In 1998, I began my law enforcement career at the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Jimmy Ferguson as a detention officer. Approximately five years later, I was promoted to Corporal. I remained at the Columbus County Sheriff's Office and obtained the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and was ultimately promoted to Captain over the Columbus County Detention Center under Sheriff Chris Batten.
5. I served as an officer in some capacity under Sheriffs Ferguson, Batten, Hatcher, and Greene. I remained Captain over the Columbus County Detention Center under Sheriffs Batten and Hatcher. I was in the position of Captain at the time that Jody Greene won the election for Columbus County Sheriff. When Greene was sworn into office in December of 2018, I was on medical leave from my position. I returned from my medical leave in the middle of January 2019. At that time, I was called to the Greene's office and told by him that he wasn't going to terminate me because "unfortunately, I haven't heard nothing but good things about you". However, Greene informed me that I was being demoted and would no longer be Captain over the detention center. At that time, I was the only black female on the command staff and Jeremy Barber was the only black male on the command staff. Greene then told me that Dawn Battle would instruct me about my new role in the detention center. Battle informed me that Greene wanted me to detail for her how to perform my job as Captain of the detention center. Having 20 years of experience at the sheriff's office, I refused to instruct Battle on how to perform the duties of my job. Being told to train a replacement, that knew nothing about my job, was demeaning and caused great internal struggle. I had lost a position that I had held and loved for so many years.
6. During this same time, I was summoned to Chief Deputy Aaron Herring's office. Herring informed me that my pay grade had been changed with my new position.

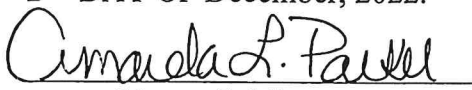
I was moved from 75 to 62. In real world terms, this meant I would receive a \$10,000 a year pay decrease. Again, this was demeaning and belittling to me. Herring told me that he was sorry and that this was out of his control. Herring instructed me to sign a piece of paper stating that he had advised me of the pay change. I refused. I told Herring that they had taken every pay raise, promotion, cost of living increase, and years of service increase from me. I was given a copy of the form that he asked me to sign, and a copy is attached to this affidavit.

7. Subsequently, I remained an officer in the detention center. However, within the next few months I was transferred to the courthouse to handle inmates that had court appearances.
8. I remained employed at the Columbus County Sheriff's Office until around July of 2020. During that time, I had purchased some groceries at the Whiteville Walmart to bake desserts that I sale on the side. Upon arriving at home, I realized that I had failed to scan five bags of pecans while doing the self-checkout. I immediately went back to Walmart to pay for the pecans. While I was on my way to Walmart, I called and attempted to call numerous supervisors to let them know I had made this mistake, but I was going back to correct it. I made these calls because I knew I had a target on my back. I was aware that Greene had made a comment early on in his administration that he could not "afford to fire anymore blacks" after he had fired Melvin Campbell. I was certain that they were looking for a reason to get rid of me. I went into Walmart, spoke to the manager, paid for the pecans, and went home. A few days later, I was suspended for three days pending a criminal investigation. The day I went back to work, I was called into Battle's office, and terminated.
9. I know that Herring went to Lt. Andre Jackson with the Whiteville Police Department and attempted to get Jackson to charge me with a crime. I was never criminally charged. Jeremy Barber completed an IA investigation on behalf of the sheriff's office. Internally, I was charged with Abuse of Position, which was never substantiated, and Conduct Unbecoming. Barber substantiated the charge of Conduct Unbecoming and told me he did so because "I have to".

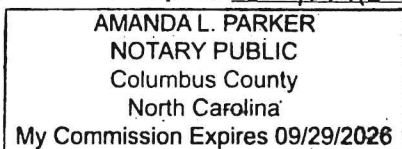
This the 2nd day of December, 2022.


Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
2nd DAY OF December, 2022.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 09/29/2026



Columbus County Personnel Action Form

Please Type

NOTE: Items preceded by (5) are to be completed by Health, Mental Health and Social Services ONLY.

DEPARTMENT Detention NO. 4320 DATE SUBMITTED 12/11/18

19) EMPLOYEE NAME Clementine Thompson

20) EMPLOYEE ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____ 9) BIRTH DATE _____ RACE _____ 12) SEX _____ 11) MARITAL STATUS _____

8) SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____ COUNTY EMPLOYEE NO. _____

TYPE OR ACTION REQUESTED: _____ 10) EFFECTIVE DATE 12-21-18

() New Hire (Initial Appt.) in Case of Emergency Contact Name _____

Telephone NO. _____ () Former Employee (Approx. Month & Year _____)

() Other Explain _____ () Leave with Pay (Explain) _____

(☒) Classification Change _____ () Leave Without Pay (Explain) _____

() Change of Address _____ () Termination (Resignation, Dismissal, Retired, Death) _____

() Change of Name From _____ TO _____

(5) () Days of Accumulated Sick Leave _____ () Last Day Worked _____

POSITIONS/SALARY/EMPLOYEE STATUS INFORMATION:

Type of Position: () Full Time () Part Time (Hrs.) _____ () Other _____

Employee Status: () Permanent () Probationary () Trainee () Temporary () Other _____

Present or Last Classification, Detention Admin (S) Position No. 9 (S) Grade 75 (S) Step _____ (S) Annual Salary 49,857 ⁶²

Requested Classification Detention Officer (Court) (S) Position No. 20 (S) Grade 62 (S) Step _____ (S) Annual Salary 39,753

Name of Employee Replaced Chris Nealy - resigned

(5) Salary Code: ☒ Salaried () Hourly

COMMENTS: 20 yrs experience. Moved to maximum of grade 62

Ans Hg 1-11-19

Chief Herring met with Thompson and advised change but Thompson refused to sign.
Official Action By DHR Personnel Office and/or State Personnel

Recommended By Shirley S. Huerfano
Local Department Head

Approved By Mike Floyd
County Administrator

N. Taylor
Personnel Director

() Action Approved as Requested

() Action Revised and Approved

DHR PERSONNEL REPRESENTATIVE AND/OR STATE PERSONNEL DIRECTOR

This instrument has been per-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Bobby F.
(Signature of Finance Officer)

1-14-19
Date

EXHIBIT E

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

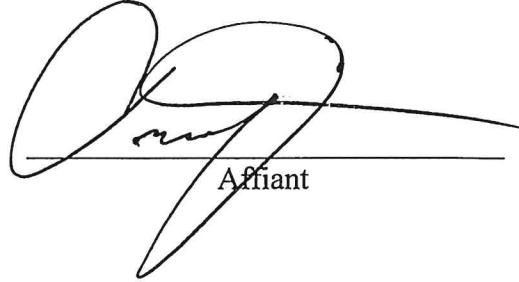
Andre Jackson

I, Andre Jackson, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a result of my interactions with Columbus County Sheriff's Office employees under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Green through my employment with Whiteville Police Department. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
3. I am currently employed as a Lieutenant for the Whiteville Police Department and was so employed during the year of 2020.
4. I recall being contacted by the Columbus County Sheriff's Office about potentially charging Clementine Brown (formerly Thompson) with some sort of larceny or shoplifting for an incident that occurred sometime in 2020. I was contacted by numerous members of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office on numerous occasions about Whiteville Police Department initiating an investigation against Brown. Some of these calls came from the top of the command staff, but I do not recall specifically who I spoke to from the sheriff's office. Based on how many calls I received, and who the complaint was against, I decided to perform the investigation myself instead of assigning it to another detective. After commencing the investigation, I interviewed Brown via telephone to get her side of the story. Subsequently, I went to the Whiteville Walmart to speak to loss prevention and view a video of the alleged incident. While at Walmart, the sheriff's office sent their own deputy to view the video. After speaking to all parties involved and watching the video, I determined that there was certainly not enough evidence to determine that Brown had any intent to commit any larceny or shoplifting offense. Further, Walmart was not the complainant. At that point, it appeared that the sheriff's office was the complainant. The incident was so minor that I did not prepare a report on it. I was aware that there was a lot going on at the sheriff's office during this time, and that Brown had been demoted from a position that she held for many years. It appeared to me that the sheriff's office was attempting to get Whiteville Police Department to charge Brown as a basis for her termination. I felt very uncomfortable with the situation, as I truly believed that absolutely no crime had been committed. It would have been unethical and immoral for me to take a charge out against someone whom I believed to be innocent for the purpose of giving a local agency a basis for her termination. I contacted the sheriff's office and declined to swear out any warrants. If the sheriff's office felt so strongly that

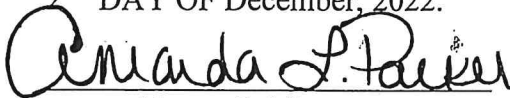
· a law had been violated, they had the ability to conduct their own investigation and take out charges.

This the 2nd day of December, 2022.



Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
2nd DAY OF December, 2022.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 09/29/2026

AMANDA L. PARKER NOTARY PUBLIC Columbus County North Carolina My Commission Expires 09/29/2026
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EXHIBIT F

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Darren Lee Currie

I, Darren Lee Currie, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a concerned citizen about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
3. I am currently employed as the City of Whiteville City Manager and have been in that position since 2014.
4. I have had limited interactions with Sheriff Jody Greene since he took office in December of 2018.
5. Jason Soles was hired by the City of Whiteville Police Department in November of 2019. Soles was previously employed by the City of Whiteville Police Department, before going to work for the Columbus County Sheriff's Office. The first day Soles reported to work for Whiteville Police Department in 2019, I received a text message from Greene requesting that I call him. Greene called me before I could give him a call. Greene began yelling, "He can't come out here. He can't be on my property." I had to ask Greene repeatedly who he was talking about. Greene then said, "That son of a bitch better not come on my property. That motherfucker can't come on this property." Greene finally said Jason Soles, in response to my question of who Greene was talking about. Greene then threatened to arrest Soles and impound any city car that Soles was driving if he came back to the jail or magistrate's office inside the jail. I immediately made contact with Whiteville Police Chief Doug Ipock and asked what happened with Soles on any county property that day. Ipock reported that Soles, and a field training officer, went to the magistrate's office to pick up some warrants and then left the facility. I told the chief to tell Soles to continue doing his job and if he needs to go process someone at the jail or go to the magistrate's office, to go do it and then leave. I told Greene that if he arrested any of my officers or impounded any of my cars for being on county property in the exercise of their duties, I would sue him. The conversation was very heated. Within three weeks, Soles resigned from his position as a full-time officer, but remained as an auxiliary officer, with Whiteville Police Department to keep the peace and not create conflict for the City of Whiteville. Soles remains in auxiliary status with

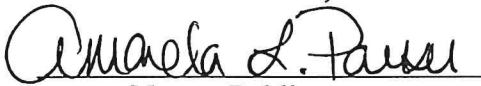
Whiteville Police Department to date. Soles did not resign at the request of the City of Whiteville. Soles was encouraged to stay on with the city, but ultimately resigned his full-time position. Since that day, I have only spoken to Greene one other time on the telephone. This interaction with Greene caused great concern for me. There is one jail in Columbus County and the primary magistrate's office is housed in that jail. All officers from every municipality must have the ability to go to the Columbus County jail to process prisoners and conduct necessary business with Columbus County magistrates.

6. Based on the recently released recordings of Greene, I have concerns about the economic impacts on the City of Whiteville. The city, in partnership with the County of Columbus, actively makes efforts to recruit companies to settle in the area. One thing that companies use in evaluating where to make investments is the presence of local law enforcement agencies. The highly racially charged comments could have a chilling effect on future company investments within the city and county.

This the 20th day of October, 2022.


Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
20th DAY OF October, 2022.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

AMANDA L. PARKER NOTARY PUBLIC Columbus County North Carolina My Commission Expires 09/29/2026
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EXHIBIT G

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Jesse Lee Croom

I, Jesse Lee Croom, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a concerned resident of Columbus County about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
3. I am Jason Soles' stepfather.
4. In the weeks prior to March 2, 2020, I had heard of issues at the Columbus County Animal Shelter. I am a dog person and liked our animal shelter. I was aware that Greene was attempting to take over the animal shelter. I knew that this was going to be a topic at a Columbus County Commissioners meeting and wanted to attend.
5. I attended the March 2, 2020, commissioner's meeting based on my concerns. I saw my brother-in-law, Ronnie Fisher, at the commissioner's meeting. Ronnie was very outspoken about the animal shelter and Greene's attempts to take it over. I witnessed several of Greene's supporters bullying Fisher prior to the meeting. I got a deputy and informed him what was going on with Fisher. The deputy thanked me and said he would keep an eye on them. Fisher made statements to the commissioners that included some expletives and was taken out of the meeting. I observed several of Greene's supporters following Fisher outside. I made my way outside to make sure that Fisher would not be jumped. When I got into the lobby area, I saw that Fisher was already out of the building. I asked a deputy if the Sheriff was in the building. The deputy pointed me to the Sheriff, who was also in the lobby. I knew that Fisher and Greene had a previous verbal altercation. I told Greene that Fisher had apologized to him and asked had he apologized to Fisher. Greene indicated that he didn't apologize to people. I said you need to grow up. I talk with my hands and a deputy told me I needed to put my hands down, so I did. I then repeated to Greene that he needed to grow up. I was then placed in handcuffs and arrested. Chief Deputy Aaron Herring whispered in my ear "I know you have been running your mouth". I was taken to the Columbus County Detention Center. I sat on a bench outside the magistrate's office and listened to a deputy and the magistrate discuss for at least 30 minutes what crime I had committed. I was eventually charged with Disorderly Conduct in a Public

Building. Those charges were later dismissed by the court on my attorney's motion to quash, due to the warrant being deficient to state a crime. I believe that Greene targeted me because he didn't like for people to stand up to him, and that I am Jason Soles' stepfather.

This the 20th day of October, 2022.

Jason Lee Croom
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
20th DAY OF October, 2022.

Amanda L. Parker
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

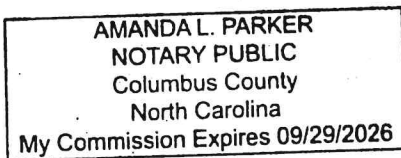


EXHIBIT H



EXHIBIT I

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Paisley Edwin Russ

I, Paisley Edwin Russ, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a concerned citizen about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I was a County Commissioner for Columbus County from 2008 to 2020.
3. After Jody Greene was sworn in as the Sheriff of Columbus County on or about December of 2018, I had numerous contacts with Greene as a result of my position as a Columbus County Commissioner.
4. One evening in 2020, I received a phone call from Greene. On this occasion, I recorded the phone call. I recorded Greene because I had received numerous calls from him in the past where he was belligerent and cursing. Greene was irate and cursing about a vote that had occurred by the county commissioners. The commissioners had voted to deny the request of Greene for funding for riot gear and substantial salary increases for employees of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office. During the call, Greene threatened to remove portable AC units that were placed in Hallsboro Middle School gymnasium. We had approved the use of the gymnasium as a courthouse during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Greene stated to me numerous times that the AC units were his and he would not do anything to help the county commissioners since we did not vote in line with his requests. Greene then threatened to call OSHA to inspect the Columbus County Sheriff's Office in an attempt to get the facility shut down and cost the county money. Further, Greene threatened to have a fellow commissioner, James Prevatte, arrested for alleged criminal activity. Greene stated that he was trying to get the victim to press charges at that time. I felt that these threats were made in an attempt to intimidate and sway the Columbus County Commissioners to vote in favor of requests that Greene had made.
5. Subsequent to this call, I learned that Greene's office had arrested Giles "Buddy" Byrd on charges that he referenced in our phone call against James Prevatte. Those charges were later dismissed.
6. The meeting immediately after county commissioners had approved the new budget, Greene allowed twenty or more deputies with the Columbus County

Sheriff's Office to line up along the path that commissioners had to walk down to get to our chambers. Most of these deputies were in uniform and drove marked county vehicles to the meeting. This was another instance that I felt was manufactured by Greene for the purpose of intimidating commissioners into voting in line with his requests.

This the 20th day of October, 2022.

P. Edwin Rurr
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
20th DAY OF October, 2022.

Amanda L. Parker
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

AMANDA L. PARKER
NOTARY PUBLIC
Columbus County
North Carolina
My Commission Expires 09/29/2026

EXHIBIT J

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Charles A. Spahos


I, Charles A. Spahos, being first duly sworn, do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below, the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a result of my involvement with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my knowledge:
2. I am a prosecuting attorney working for the Conference of District Attorneys in Raleigh. I served as an appointed and subsequently elected prosecuting attorney in Georgia for 19 years, retiring in December 2017 as the Director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia. I now serve as General Counsel to the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys after joining the organization in January 2018 as the Chief Financial Crimes Prosecutor. I serve statewide as a special prosecutor for financial crimes.
3. Another of my primary duties is to assist the 42 elected District Attorneys in the State of North Carolina with prosecuting cases where there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest.
4. On September 18, 2020, District Attorney Jon David requested a conflict prosecutor be assigned to handle a case involving County Commissioner Giles "Buddy" Byrd. Mr. Byrd was arrested the day prior by the Columbus County Sheriff's Office for a felony offense concerning a stolen storage building. On September 19, 2020, the Conference of District was appointed by Davis Hoke, Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, to handle the conflict prosecution. I was assigned as the special prosecutor in the case.
5. I received and reviewed the felony report prepared by the Columbus County Sheriff's Office and interviewed Detective Adam Sellers, the investigating officer. Additionally, I contacted Attorney Michael Willis, attorney for Mr. Byrd. I received a detailed account of facts and allegations regarding Mr. Byrd's lack of criminal culpability that further alleged that Sheriff Jody Greene was abusing his power by targeting Mr. Byrd for political reasons. I was further provided information related to Mr. Reaves, the former tenant of the campground and purchaser of the storage building in question, and facts supporting that the storage building was now in possession of Mr. Reaves.
6. After reviewing all the facts and applying them to the controlling law, I concluded that insufficient evidence existed to charge Mr. Byrd with any crime. However, I left open the possibility that further investigation may establish that a crime had been committed by Mike Butts, the business partner for Mr. Byrd, related to the same storage building.

CAS

7. Thereafter, I sent an email that suggested that the authority as a special prosecutor should be extended to potential co-defendants Mike Butts. That same day Director Hoke extended the authority to handle additional charges related to this case.
8. I traveled to Columbus County to meet with Detective Adam Sellers to explain my decision that the State would not be pursuing criminal charges against Mr. Byrd but that I was authorized to prosecute Mr. Butts if warranted by the evidence. I recommended that the Columbus County Sheriff's Office conduct some additional investigation. After the follow-up investigation was complete, I committed to reviewing the possibility of charging Mr. Butts with a crime.
9. Detective Sellers and another deputy debated with me the decision not to charge Mr. Byrd and questioned who had the authority over me and my decisions. I explained my decision was like that of the district attorney in this matter and that my decision was final. I clarified my willingness to prosecute Mr. Butts if the follow-up investigation revealed sufficient evidence that Mr. Butts had committed a crime. I received no further information regarding Mr. Butts and subsequently filed no charges.
10. On October 28, 2020, I filed a dismissal of the charges against Mr. Byrd. The long-form dismissal is attached to this Affidavit and incorporated herein by reference.

This the 19th day of October 2022.



Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
19 DAY OF October, 2022.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2/10/2026

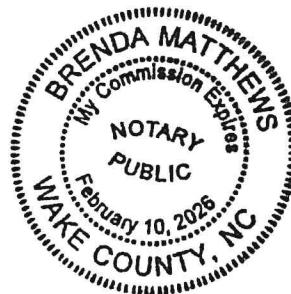


EXHIBIT K

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Giles "Buddy" Byrd

I, Giles "Buddy" Byrd, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a concerned citizen about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I am a County Commissioner for Columbus County and have been since 2008.
3. After Jody Greene was sworn in as the Sheriff of Columbus County on or about December of 2018, I had numerous contacts with Greene as a result of my position as a Columbus County Commissioner.
4. I would characterize my relationship with Greene as contentious and strained. I have been the target of much of his unpleasant public comments as it relates to the Columbus County of Commissioner.
5. In summer of 2020, the commissioners were considering a new budget for Columbus County. Greene had submitted a request for funding in excess of \$80,000 for the purchase of riot gear. Additionally, Greene was seeking substantial salary increases for his employees. The commissioners denied the request the funding for riot gear. Further, the commissioners only approved a 3% raise for sheriff's office employees, far below what was originally requested by Greene. Greene became very upset in the days and weeks that followed. I was subsequently arrested by detectives with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office for felony property crimes. A conflict prosecutor with the Conference of District Attorney's later evaluated the case and determined that the charges should be dismissed. I believe that these charges were brought about by Greene in an attempt to influence future votes or retaliate against me for votes that I had made as a Columbus County Commissioner.
6. The meeting immediately after county commissioners had approved the new budget, Greene allowed twenty or more deputies with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office to line up along the path that commissioners had to walk down to get to our chambers. Most of these deputies were in uniform and drove marked county vehicles to the meeting. This was another instance that I felt was manufactured by Greene for the purpose of intimidating commissioners into voting in line with his requests.

This the 20th day of October, 2022.

Libe E. Byrd
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
20th DAY OF October, 2022.

Amanda L. Parker
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

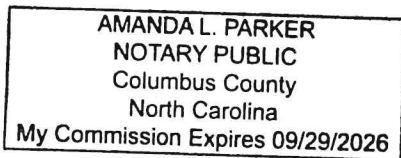


EXHIBIT L

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Victor Jacobs

I, Victor Jacobs, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a result of my employment with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. On or about February, 2018, I was sworn in as a deputy under Sheriff Lewis Hatcher in the Civil Division.
3. On or about December 2018, I was sworn in as a deputy under Sheriff Jody Greene. In January, 2019 I was promoted to the Criminal Investigations Division ("CID"). Jason Soles was the Captain over CID at the time.
4. At the time I was promoted to CID, Columbus County was divided into four areas of responsibility. I was assigned to CID Area 2 with Samantha Hickman and worked closely with her during my time in CID. Samantha Hickman had been promoted to CID under Sheriff Hatcher.
5. Samantha Hickman and I were called to Sheriff Jody Greene's office frequently. During these meetings I observed that Samantha Hickman grew increasingly comfortable with Sheriff Jody Greene. I told Samantha Hickman that I believed Sheriff Jody Greene was "trying to get in [her] pants."
6. In early September, 2019, while the Sheriff's Office was responding to Hurricane Dorian, I became aware that Samantha Hickman's relationship had turned romantic. ~~when I saw them kissing each other while sitting together in a utility truck in a parking lot.~~ *Samantha told me that she kissed the Sheriff in a utility truck.*
7. Samantha Hickman told me that she had been having sex regularly with Sheriff Jody Greene. She said they often had sex in his office, in his county-issued Dodge Durango, at a shooting range in Columbus County, and at Sheriff Jody Greene's house in Cherry Grove Beach, South Carolina. The majority of times they had sex occurred while Samantha Hickman and Sheriff Jody Green were on duty with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office. Regarding the time they had sex at Sheriff Jody Greene's house in Cherry Grove Beach, Samantha Hickman told me that she drove Sheriff Jody Greene's county-issued Dodge Durango with Sheriff Jody Greene as a passenger to the house.

*NO 9
SEE 10-19-21*

8. Samantha told me that during one of the times she was having sex with Sheriff Jody Greene in his county-issued Dodge Durango, she kicked out one of the vehicle's windows. I believe that the window was repaired at Clark's Auto Glass in Whiteville, North Carolina.
9. Samantha Hickman told me that between September, 2019 and May, 2020 she and Sheriff Jody Green were having sex regularly. During that time, Samantha Hickman called me and told me that she was pregnant with Sheriff Jody Greene's child and that Sheriff Jody Greene was angry about it. She asked me to drive her to get an abortion, but I refused. She drove herself to Wilmington, North Carolina and got the abortion without my assistance.
10. Jason Soles was replaced by Justin Hewett as Captain over CID.
11. I resigned from the Columbus County Sheriff's Office on May 17, 2020.
12. On July 24, 2020, I recorded an 18-minute phone call between me and Samantha Hickman. In that call she corroborates the affair between Samantha Hickman and Sheriff Jody Greene.
13. At another time, I recorded a 5-minute conversation between me and Samantha Hickman. In that call she again corroborates the affair between Samantha Hickman and Jody Greene.

This the 19 day of October, 2022.

W. A. Q. in 9/10/2022

Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE

19 DAY OF October, 2022.

Shannon H. Aylward
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

10/04/2026



EXHIBIT M

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Jason Soles

I, Jason Soles, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a result of my employment with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. On or about October 1, 2010, I was sworn in as a deputy under Sheriff Chris Batten.
3. Subsequently, I was sworn in under Lewis Hatcher after the resignation of Chris Batten. I was eventually promoted to Captain over Criminal Investigations.
4. On or about December 2018, I was sworn in as Captain over Criminal Investigations under Sheriff Jody Greene.
5. In January 2019, I was told that I was in charge of the Columbus County Sheriff's office pursuant to a court order that was sealed. However, I never took the oath of office as Sheriff of Columbus County.
6. In the middle of February 2019, I received a phone call after 10:00 pm from Sheriff Jody Greene. In the beginning of the phone call Greene stated, "I hate a Democrat. I take that back. I hate a mother fucking black democrat." I didn't start recording immediately because I had no idea what he was going to say. I was shocked by his statements and began recording the phone call roughly two minutes after answering the phone. That recording is the one referenced in the District Attorney's Petition to Remove. The recording has not been edited or altered in any way. I have never recorded a conversation I have had with anyone else, other than what was required to record when I was a criminal investigator.
7. While I was in the Criminal Investigations Division of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under Chris Batten and Lewis Hatcher, we routinely requested assistance from the North Carolina SBI. We did so because the SBI had more resources and experience that was invaluable to the investigation of homicides. We often made this request on our own but would also make a request for assistance if the District Attorney's Office felt that it was in the best interest of a case. There was an SBI office within the Columbus County Sheriff's Office prior to Greene being sworn in as Sheriff. The SBI vacated the Columbus County

Sheriff's Office at the request of Greene. I believe this request for the SBI to vacate was a result of Chief Deputy Aaron Herring's personal feelings about the SBI after one of the SBI's investigations resulted in criminal charges against Herring. After Greene took office, we no longer requested the SBI's assistance.

8. After my stepfather was arrested by deputies with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office for Disorderly Conduct in a Public Building on March 2, 2020, I approached the County Commissioners and attempted to disclose the audio recording. Within a couple of days, I met with two County Commissioners and played the recording for them. Thereafter, I met with an SBI agent and detailed to him the content of the recording, but he never asked for a copy of the recording. The agent indicated that although the behavior was inappropriate, it did not rise to the level of criminal conduct.
9. After I announced that I would be running for the office of Sheriff of Columbus County, I received numerous threats and harassment from several supporters of Greene. The night of my campaign kick-off, individuals were stopped by a member of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office. After the release of the above referenced recording, those threats and harassment have only increased.

This the 18th day of October, 2022.

Juan Alan Soles
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
18th DAY OF October, 2022.

Amanda L. Parker
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

AMANDA L. PARKER NOTARY PUBLIC Columbus County North Carolina My Commission Expires 09/29/2026
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EXHIBIT N

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Melvin Campbell

I, Melvin Campbell, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information previously related to me as a result of my employment with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I identify as a black male.
3. I retired as a Master Trooper with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol after serving the State from 1988-2016.
4. On or about December, 2016, I was sworn in as a deputy under Sheriff Lewis Hatcher and oversaw the front office, later being promoted to sergeant.
5. On or about December, 2018, I was sworn in as a deputy in the under Sheriff Jody Greene as a sergeant overseeing the front office.
6. Prior to my retirement from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, I worked as a Master Trooper under then Line Sergeant Jody Greene.
7. I worked under Sheriff Jody Greene from December 3, 2018-January 28, 2019. During that time, I had very little contact with Sheriff Jody Greene and never received any warnings, notices, or complaints of any kind from Sheriff Greene about the performance of my duties. On or about January 28, 2019, I was called to Chief Deputy Aaron Herring's Office. Herring informed me that the Sheriff had instructed him to let me know that my services were no longer needed. When I asked why I was being terminated, Herring told me that the Sheriff no longer required my services.
8. During the 2018 election, I did not openly support Lewis Hatcher. I did not have any political signs in my yard or work any polls for any candidate.
9. During my entire time of employment at the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, I did not use my county owned cell phone. I only used my personal cell phone. I never provided information about the internal workings of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office to former Sheriff Lewis Hatcher after Sheriff Jody Greene took office.

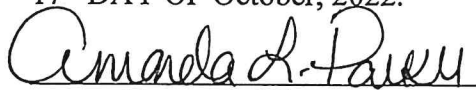
10. I had not heard the previously released recording of Jody Greene prior to 2021.

This the 17th day of October, 2022.



Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
17th DAY OF October, 2022.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026.

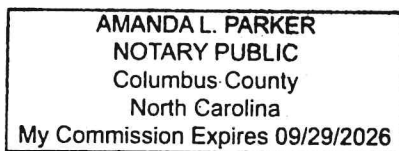


EXHIBIT O

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Joshua Harris

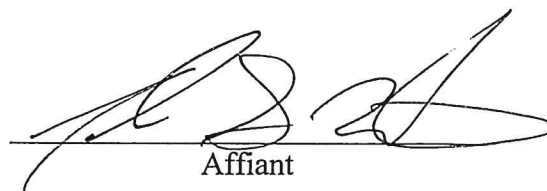
I, Joshua Harris, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information previously related to me as a result of my employment with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I identify as a black male.
3. On or about February, 2017, I was sworn in as a deputy in the civil division under Sheriff Lewis Hatcher.
4. On or about December, 2018, I was sworn in as a deputy in the civil division under Sheriff Jody Greene.
5. Prior to Greene taking office, I was a deputy in the civil division. After Greene took office, I was approached by my supervisor Nicholas High who informed me that I was going to be transferred to a county school as an SRO. I requested to remain in the civil division. High was able to speak with someone and I was permitted to remain in the civil division.
6. On or about March 25, 2019, I walked into the front door of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office when my supervisor, Mark Martin, informed me that Jody Greene wanted me to call him. After Martin gave me Greene's number, I called Greene. Greene told me "I heard you don't support me". I told Greene that I did not support him in the election, but I supported my boss. I further stated that he is now my boss, so I support him. Greene stated, "I heard you were talking junk about me." After I told Greene I had not, Greene told me, "I know that is a lie because there is someone standing here with me right now who told me you are. When I get to the bottom of it someone is going to be a fired ass." After getting off of the phone, I tendered my resignation to my supervisors effective immediately.
7. The weekend prior to this phone call with Greene, there was a celebration dinner at a home in the Beaverdam community for Greene. I had previously been to this home during 2011 when I was in BLET. While in BLET, I went to the residence to study with classmates. Upon arrival, a coon dog came out and began

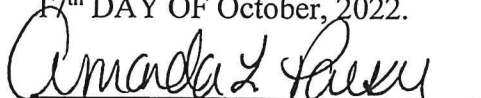
to bark at me. The owner of the residence came out and stated that the dog "knew a coon when he saw one". Based on this previous interaction, I did not feel comfortable attending any event at that particular residence. When asked by a superior if I was going to attend, I told that officer that I would not attend and informed that officer of what had happened there previously. That officer stated that Greene would be watching to see who was there. I believe my decision not to attend was the basis for the call between Greene and myself.

8. Two years after leaving the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, I went to work for Whiteville Police Department. In 2021, I was on patrol when I received a call for assistance from Deputy David Archie at Whiteville High School. The call for assistance was for a missing student with a learning disability. When I arrived on scene, I observed the student, a black male of average height and build, on the ground with his hands under him. It was clear that the student had knocked off the lapel microphone of Deputy Archie and had the microphone in his hands. As we were standing around the student, I observed Chief Deputy Aaron Herring arrive, look around, then place both of his hands the neck of the student and begin to choke him for around 15-30 seconds. As he was choking the student, he stated "give me your fucking hands. You aren't going to treat my deputies this way." The student was then restrained, and I cleared the scene. I immediately reported this incident to my supervisors.

This the 17th day of October, 2022.


Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
17th DAY OF October, 2022.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

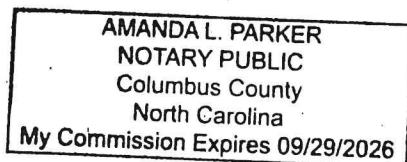


EXHIBIT P

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COLUMBUS COUNTY


AFFIDAVIT OF
Carol John Caldwell

I, Carol John Caldwell, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

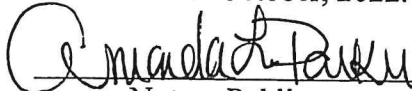
1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a concerned resident of Columbus County about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I identify as a black female.
3. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
4. I was a speech pathologist for the Columbus County Schools for 28 years and the Executive Director of the DREAM center in Columbus County for 12 years.
5. As a resident of Columbus County and a community leader, I have met Sheriff Jody Greene and had casual interactions with him in years past. On one occasion in 2020, I invited Greene to attend a meeting for Courageous Conversations on Race. However, Greene never attended.
6. My concerns about Sheriff Greene began after the Columbus County Sheriff's election in 2018. It was evident that Greene was not a resident of Columbus County. Starting his term on this lie led me to believe that he would not be willing to honor the letter of the law.
7. My concerns about Greene began to grow when Greene petitioned the Columbus County Commissioners for riot gear in the wake of protests over the murder of George Floyd. Greene demonstrated his contempt for the law when he began a campaign of intimidation against the County Commissioners, after the board refused to provide the requested riot gear and funding.
8. After hearing the recently released recordings of Greene, I was deeply hurt. Greene demonstrated disdain for people of color under his supervision. It is clear from his statements that Greene does not represent all members of this county. I personally know several of the individuals referenced in the recording and know those individuals to be good, hard-working, public servants. It is exceptionally difficult for law enforcement in our county to work with and protect all people in our community if the head law enforcement officer holds such hate for people of color. I further have a concern that Greene's comments could discourage

corporate businesses from investing jobs and economic growth in Columbus County.

This the 18th day of October, 2022.


Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
18th DAY OF October, 2022.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

AMANDA L. PARKER
NOTARY PUBLIC
Columbus County
North Carolina
My Commission Expires 09/29/2026

EXHIBIT Q

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COLUMBUS COUNTY

AFFIDAVIT OF
Anthony Anderson

I, Anthony Anderson, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a concerned resident of Columbus County about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I identify as a black male.
3. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
4. I am currently working as an investigator with Disability Rights North Carolina.
5. I am a pastor, parent, resident, and community leader. I met Jody Greene through Angie Greene. I did not have extensive contact with Greene. I followed the election between Jody Greene and Lewis Hatcher and have been involved with the Columbus County Democratic Party on and off. I supported Lewis Hatcher and followed the residency challenges during the election. I took issue with the residency situation because I resigned my position on the Whiteville City Council because I moved outside of my district. While attending the local residency hearings, three of Greene's friends told me they were tired of my mouth and my outspoken stance against Greene. I felt and said that Greene had defrauded his constituency. I subsequently went to the State Board of Elections hearing in Raleigh. One individual there said we need to do something with some of these preachers and we need to start with Andy Anderson.
6. In 2021 at a Columbus County Commissioner's Meeting, Greene requested that I come talk to him in a side room. Greene confronted me telling me he heard I was calling him a racist at a Democratic Party meeting. I told him that if I had something to say I would say it to his face.
7. I believe that there are now explicit biases evident in the recently released recording of Jody Greene. As a citizen, I feel we need a better relationship between our people of color and our law enforcement. A sheriff has a great deal of power in his community. The sheriff will have the ability to make decisions about who is investigated and how those individuals are treated in the process. Greene has clearly indicated that he has an issue with people of color that he employed. The clear racist feelings towards his own employees, leads to concerns

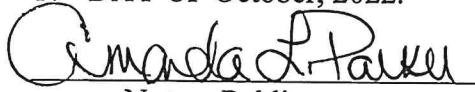
about the average citizen of color and how policing will be used against them. There is very little evidence that Greene has the ability to be fair and impartial to all citizens of this county. This is a sentiment that has been expressed to me by many members of the community of Columbus County, of all races.

This the 17th day of October, 2022.



Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
17th DAY OF October, 2022.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

AMANDA L. PARKER
NOTARY PUBLIC
Columbus County
North Carolina
My Commission Expires 09/29/2026

EXHIBIT R

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Matthew Parker


I, Matthew Parker, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information previously related to me as a result of my employment with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. On or about March, 2015, I was sworn in as an investigator under Sheriff Lewis Hatcher.
3. On or about December, 2018, I was sworn in an investigator under Sheriff Jody Greene.
4. Prior to Greene taking office, Jason Soles was the captain of the criminal investigation's unit. I was a sergeant supervising many investigators. There were approximately 8-9 investigators in that division at that time. Samantha Hickman was an investigator within the division immediately before, or shortly after Greene took office.
5. On or about July 2019 the Columbus County Sheriff's Office received a late call. Several investigators responded and aided with the investigation. I was conducting an interview on the second floor of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office in an interview room. During interviews, it was common for other investigators to watch the interview in a separate room and for the interviewing investigator to step out to speak to his/her colleagues that were watching. I acted in accordance with this standard procedure and stepped out to speak with Sheriff Jody Green and Investigator Samantha Hickman. As I walked around the corner, I observed Jody Greene seated in front of the monitor with his chair pushed back, and Samantha Hickman seated on the floor next to Greene. Greene and Hickman had their hands raised at each other in a playful and flirtatious manner. I immediately felt uncomfortable and found the interaction between the two very unprofessional. Shortly after observing this, and partially as a result of this, I tendered my resignation from the Sheriff's Office in August of 2019.
6. Prior to Greene taking office, the Columbus County Sheriff's Office routinely used the NC State Bureau of Investigation for homicides. The SBI was an invaluable resource and provided tools and personnel that the Columbus County Sheriff's Office did not possess. After Greene took office, we were no longer

permitted to use the SBI to assist in homicide investigations. I believed this to be because of Aaron Herring's personal feelings about the SBI after an investigation was performed on him and a subsequent prosecution.

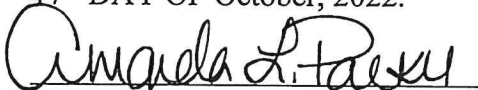
7. After leaving the Columbus County Sheriff's Office, I was employed at the Whiteville Police Department as a patrol officer. While at Whiteville, the Bladen County Sheriff's Office reached out to me and recruited me for a position as a sergeant over the detectives in August of 2021. After accepting the position and resigning from Whiteville Police Department, I received a phone call from Morgan Johnson with the Bladen County Sheriff's Office. Johnson informed me that Greene called Sheriff McVicker and as a result of that call I would now only be a detective and no longer a supervisor for Bladen County Sheriff's Office. He further stated that my "politics" had followed me over. Based on this, I declined to accept the position.

This the 17th day of October, 2022.



Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
17th DAY OF October, 2022.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

9/29/2026

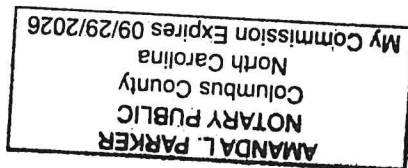


EXHIBIT S

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Franklin Thurman

I, Franklin Thurman, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth my concerns as a citizen of Columbus County about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
3. I identify as black male.
4. I am currently the Chairman of the Columbus County Democratic Party and have been for the past 5 years.
5. In the early part of 2022 I was attending the campaign kick-off for Jason Soles for Sheriff of Columbus County. On my way to the Spillway for the kick-off event, my wife and I were flagged down by Columbus County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy, Aaron Herring. Upon stopping our car, Herring asked where we were headed. I indicated that we were heading down the road. We were permitted to continue traveling down the road, and no citation was issued.
6. After the release of a recording of Greene making racist statements, I attended an NAACP meeting in Columbus County. There were approximately 300 individuals in attendance. I was notified that there were approximately 9 sheriff's office cars parked on the road in front of the building where the meeting was being held. When I went out to see if I needed to speak to the deputies, all of them left. Several minutes later, deputies returned to the road in front of the building. Once again, when we came outside the deputies all left. This felt like an intimidation tactic to me. This was a peaceful gathering at a private facility protected by the 1st amendment.

This the 18th day of October, 2022.

Franklin H. Rueman
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
18th DAY OF October, 2022.

Amanda L. Parker
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/29/2026

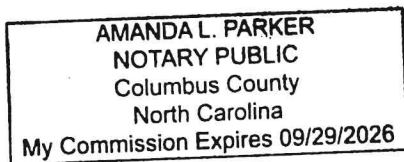


EXHIBIT T

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT OF

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Carlton F. Williamson

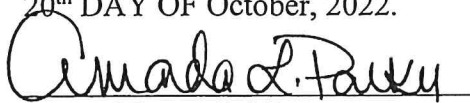
I, Carlton F. Williamson, being first duly sworn do hereby swear, declare, depose and state the following to be true in all respects:

1. On the date indicated below herein the District Attorney for Columbus County (or his representative) requested that I execute this written Affidavit setting forth information related to me as a concerned citizen about the administration of the Columbus County Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sheriff Jody Greene. I swear, declare, depose and state that the following is true in all respects of my own knowledge.
2. I am a citizen and resident of Columbus County.
3. I am a licensed attorney in the State of North Carolina and have been since 1980, practicing both civil and criminal law.
4. I have concerns about the recently released recording of Jody Greene. The recording is a terrible reflection and embarrassment for Columbus County as a whole. Its impact cannot be overstated. Further, I have concerns about the overall impact on the criminal justice system. As a practicing attorney, I believe that this recording will have a far-reaching ripple effect on our court system. Moreover, Columbus County is exposed to potential civil liability based on the actions, and statements of Greene.
5. Further, as a supporter of the Columbus Jobs Foundation, I have concerns for the potential loss of corporate investments to the Columbus County.

This the 20th day of October, 2022.


Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED
BEFORE ME THIS THE
20th DAY OF October, 2022.


Notary Public

