



Jasper County Sheriff's Office

Chris Malphrus | Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2025

Multi-Agency Operation Leads to Arrest of Wanted Fugitive and Drug Trafficker

JASPER COUNTY, S.C. – On February 20, 2025, members of the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with multiple law enforcement agencies, successfully apprehended Azariah Burns, 36, in the Ernest Street area of Hardeeville, S.C.

Burns was initially wanted on outstanding violent warrants from Beaufort County. Investigators from the Jasper County Criminal Investigations Division (CID), Jasper County Narcotics Enforcement Team, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Fugitive Team, and the Hardeeville Police Department executed a search warrant at the residence. Due to the circumstances, a forced entry was conducted, leading to Burns' arrest.

A subsequent search warrant for the residence resulted in the seizure of:

- Approximately 35 grams of methamphetamine
- Approximately 28 grams of cocaine
- 100 Schedule IV Xanax pills
- 180 Schedule II Oxycodone pills
- 61 grams of marijuana
- A .45 caliber Smith & Wesson firearm

As a result of this investigation, Burns has been charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine, Trafficking Cocaine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Schedule II Narcotics, Possession with Intent to Distribute Schedule IV Narcotics, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime.

Following his arrest, he was transported to and is currently incarcerated at the Jasper County Detention Center.

Sheriff Chris Malphrus commended the teamwork and dedication of all agencies involved in this operation. "The Jasper County Sheriff's Office remains committed to working alongside our local, state, and federal partners to investigate, apprehend, and remove dangerous individuals from our communities. We will continue to take a firm stance against illegal narcotics and violent crime to protect the citizens of Jasper County."

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