

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR SUWANNEE
COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

-vs-

CASE NO:

CLERK NO: 20-197-CF

Kari Sanders Williamson
Defendant,

AGENCY CASE NO: 20-00828

RACE: W/F

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: ***-**-****

FL DL # [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

SUWANNEE COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA

I hereby certify that the above is a true
and correct copy of the original
this 11 day of May 2020

Bary A. Baker, Clerk of Court

By [Signature] D.C.

ARREST WARRANT

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, TO ALL AND SINGULAR SHERIFFS OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA:

HAVING RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED THE SWORN AFFIDAVIT OF SENIOR INSPECTOR
JARED DEWEY OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL DATED May 11th 2020, SAID AFFIDAVIT ALLEGING:

COUNT 1

Kari Sanders Williamson, a public servant serving in the capacity of a certified Correctional Officer employed by the State of Florida, on numerous occasions, on or about December 2019 and January 2020 in Suwannee County, Florida, then and there, knowingly obtained or used, or endeavored to obtain or to use, the property of the State of Florida with intent to permanently deprive the State of Florida of a right to the property or a benefit from the property, valued at \$5,000 or more but less than \$10,000; contrary to Florida State Statute 812.014(2)(c)(2).

COUNT 2

Kari Sanders Williamson, a public servant serving in the capacity of a certified Correctional Officer employed by the State of Florida, on numerous occasions, on or about December 2019 and January 2020 in Suwannee County, Florida, then and there, engaged in an ongoing course of conduct with intent to defraud one or more persons, or with intent to obtain property from one or more persons by false or fraudulent pretenses; contrary to Florida State Statute 817.034(4)(a)(3).

COUNT 3

Kari Sanders Williamson, a public servant serving in the capacity of a certified Correctional Officer employed by the State of Florida, on or about December 2019 in Suwannee County, Florida, then and there, falsely made, altered, forged or counterfeited a public record, namely receipts generated in the course of business of the Employee Benefit Trust Fund; contrary to Florida State Statute 831.01.

COUNT 4

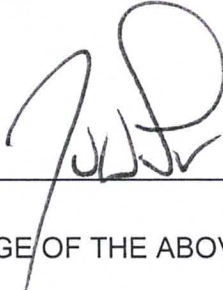
Kari Sanders Williamson, a public servant serving in the capacity of a certified Correctional Officer employed by the State of Florida, on numerous occasions, on or about December 2019 and January 2020 in Suwannee County, Florida, then and there, uttered and published as true a false, forged or altered record, deed, instrument or other writing mentioned knowing the same to be false, altered, forged or counterfeited, with intent to injure or defraud any person, namely receipts generated in the course of business of the Employee Benefit Trust Fund; contrary to Florida State Statute 831.02.

COUNT 5

Kari Sanders Williamson, a public servant serving in the capacity of a certified Correctional Officer employed by the State of Florida, on numerous occasions, on or about December 2019 and January 2020 in Suwannee County, Florida, then and there, knowingly and intentionally obtained a benefit for any person by falsifying any official record or official document; contrary to Florida State Statute 838.022(1)(a).

THESE ARE THEREFORE TO COMMAND YOU TO FORTHWITH ARREST AND BRING THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT BEFORE ME TO BE DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO LAW.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL this 11th day of May 2020, at Suwannee County, Florida.



JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT

[] BAIL BOND IS FIXED AT:

\$ <u>10K</u>	Grand Theft – Over \$5,000 but less than \$10,000	
\$ <u>5K</u>	Organized Scheme to Defraud	
\$ <u>5K</u>	Forgery	total \$ 39,000
\$ <u>5K</u>	Uttering a Forgery	
\$ <u>5K</u>	Official Misconduct	

~~[] BAIL BOND IS TO BE SET AT FIRST APPEARANCE~~

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FL DL # [REDACTED]

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SUWANNEE COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT

2020 MAY 11 AM 11:41

DOCKETED FILES
RECEIVED

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST

BEFORE ME, David W Fina, a Judge of the above captioned court, personally appeared before me Senior Inspector Jared Dewey, who being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

On or about January 17, 2020, your Affiant began a criminal investigation into an Embezzlement at Suwannee Correctional Institution (SWCI) in Suwannee County, Florida.

On January 10, 2020, SWCI Warden Christopher Hodgson (Warden Hodgson) submitted Incident Report #230-20-0078 reporting concerns he had with the segregation of duties involving SWCI Sergeant Kari Williamson (Sergeant Williamson) and the SWCI Employee Benefit Trust Fund (EBTF). Warden Hodgson's concerns resulted in an audit being conducted of the EBTF operation. One of the responsibilities of the EBTF, is to oversee and manage the Staff Canteens, a place for staff to purchase food, drink, and other items while at work at a state correctional institution.

As a result of the audit, which was conducted by a Regional Audit Team consisting of a Professional Accountant Specialist and an Accountant, it was determined there was over \$6000.00 unaccounted for in the EBTF bank account for December 6 & 7, 2019, and December 26, 2019, through January 2, 2020. Their audit findings were further confirmed by another audit team consisting of a Professional Accountant Supervisor and another Professional Accountant Specialist. The audit teams provided your Affiant with all documents used in their respective audits.

The audit teams determined that proceeds earned from all SWCI Staff Canteens from December 6, 2019, through December 7, 2020 (\$860.28), and from December 26, 2019, through January 2, 2020 (\$5,596.99), were picked up by Sergeant Williamson, but not deposited into the bank, in the total amount of \$6,457.27.

Upon reviewing the audit teams' documents, a subpoena was submitted to First Federal Bank, the local bank used to hold EBTF funds, to verify the correct bank statements were provided. The bank statements returned with the subpoena were the same used by the audit teams.

The bank statements indicated deposits were made on December 26, 2019, in the amount of \$5,404.04; on January 3, 2020 (posted January 6, 2020), in the amount of \$3,714.08; and on January 8, 2020, in the amount of \$2,819.40.

A review of EBTF documents revealed the deposit made on December 26, 2019 (\$5,404.04), was the result of proceeds earned by all Staff Canteens from December 13, 2019, through December 19, 2019. The deposit made on January 3, 2020 (\$3,714.08), was the result of proceeds earned by all Staff Canteens from December 20, 2019, through December 25, 2019. The deposit made on January 8, 2020 (\$2,819.40), was the result of proceeds earned by all Staff Canteens from January 3, 2020, through January 6, 2020 (in addition, through January 7, 2020, for the Work Camp Staff Canteen).

Your Affiant reviewed the EBTF documents for December 2019 and January 2020, to include bank statements, deposit slips, and Daily Sales Reports to verify the findings of the audit teams.

Based on all available documents, your Affiant confirmed the missing dollar amounts discovered by the audit team and the total amount of money picked up by Sergeant Williamson, as evidenced by her signature on the Daily Sales Reports, but not deposited into the bank, totaled \$6,457.27.

SWCI Secretary Specialist Rebecca Hunt (Mrs. Hunt) was interviewed and stated: She was assigned as the Reviewer, but was told she did not have to do anything by Sergeant Williamson. She never signed or initialed any documents related to EBTF. She never handled any money or products related to EBTF. She does not do deposits or take money out of the safe.

Warden Hodgson was interviewed and stated: He remembered seeing the initials "RH" on the documents he had been reviewing monthly. He contacted Mrs. Hunt by phone inquiring about her initialing EBTF documents to which she stated she was told by Sergeant Williamson not to worry about Reviewer duties. Mrs. Hunt also told him she (Mrs. Hunt) had not signed or initialed any documents. He contacted Sergeant Williamson by phone, and she admitted to signing "RH" on the documents for Mrs. Hunt. He ordered Sergeant Williamson to submit an incident report, but she never did. Upon Sergeant Williamson reporting to work, her keys and credit card were seized. Sergeant Williamson resigned from SWCI the following morning and he has not spoken to her since. He notified his supervisor and requested an audit of the EBTF. He has no memory of Sergeant Williamson submitting an incident report detailing any missing or lost EBTF money.

A review of numerous receipts and other paperwork generated in the course of business of the SWCI EBTF revealed the initials "RH" written on the documents. The documents were then forwarded to Warden Hodgson for a monthly review.

A review of the Permanent Issue Key Receipt, a record of which keys are assigned to staff, indicated that Sergeant Williamson was the only person assigned the key with access to the safes that contain money generated from sales of the Staff Canteens. Sergeant Williamson took possession of the key on May 21, 2019, and returned the key on January 7, 2020.

On December 18, 2019, Sergeant Williamson signed a receipt acknowledging a Kyocera DuraXV cellular phone was assigned to her for use in her official capacity as a Correctional Officer responsible for managing the SWCI EBTF. On January 8, 2020, at 6:19AM, Sergeant Williamson abruptly resigned from her employment with the Florida Department of Corrections.

On January 24, 2020, a Certified Letter was mailed to Sergeant Williamson at her residence requesting the return of her state issued equipment. On January 29, 2020, at 9:56AM, the letter

was delivered and accepted by an individual at her residence. As of February 27, 2020, Sergeant Williamson has failed to return her state issued cellular phone, a Kyocera DuraXV, valued at a replacement cost of \$264.00. The cost of a replacement case is \$14.99. The total value of the property not returned by Sergeant Williamson is \$278.99.

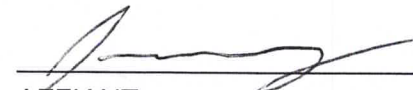
On February 24, 2020, at approximately 1000 hours, Senior Inspector Tammy Cox (SI Cox) and your Affiant attempted contact with Sergeant Williamson at her last known residence [REDACTED]. Sergeant Williamson did not respond to knocking on the door, but your Affiant could hear movement inside the residence. Sergeant Williamson's vehicle was parked in the yard. At approximately 1400 hours, SI Cox and your Affiant again attempted contact with Sergeant Williamson at her last known residence [REDACTED]. Sergeant Williamson did not respond to knocking on the door, but your Affiant could hear movement inside the residence. SI Cox observed someone lift the window blinds, on the same side of the residence, approximately 15 feet away from the door your Affiant was knocking on. The individual then shut the blinds. SI Cox's state vehicle was parked in the driveway within view of the window to which the blind was lifted. Sergeant Williamson's vehicle was parked in the yard.

While Sergeant Williamson was assigned as the officer overseeing the SWCI EBTF, there was a portable radio assigned to the EBTF. Starting in February 2020, Field Office Manager Julia Tilton (Ms. Tilton) began conducting her annual equipment inventory. During that inventory, Ms. Tilton discovered the portable radio (Brand: Macom; serial # [REDACTED]/property # [REDACTED]) was unable to be located. During the previous year's annual inventory, the radio was accounted for with the SWCI EBTF, to which Sergeant Williamson was also assigned to at that time. The replacement cost of the portable radio is \$1506.73. There was no record a report being filed indicating the radio was missing or otherwise unaccounted for.

Based on the evidence gathered during this investigation, your Affiant has probable cause to believe that Sergeant Williamson did: Commit Grand Theft of State Property; Organized Scheme to Defraud; Forged the signature/initials of Mrs. Hunt; Uttered the forged documents to Warden Hodgson as a true record knowing them to be false; and Obtained a Benefit by falsifying any official record.

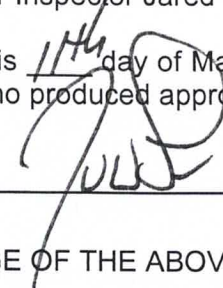
WHEREFORE, your Affiant prays that an arrest warrant be issued according to law commanding all and singular the Sheriffs of the State of Florida to forthwith arrest the said Kari Sanders Williamson, and bring her before the court to answer the charges of: Grand Theft, Organized Scheme to Defraud, Forgery, Uttering Forged Instruments, and Official Misconduct.

On May 6, 2020, this Affidavit for Arrest and accompanying Arrest Warrant was reviewed by Assistant State Attorney Jakob Trojbom.



AFFIANT
Senior Inspector Jared Dewey

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME this 11th day of May 2020, by Senior Inspector Jared Dewey who is personally known to me or who produced appropriate identification.



JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT