

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



INVESTIGATIVE FILE

Case Number: 33-21-0094
County: Sumter
Victim(s): SCDPS
Suspect(s): Welsh, James "Cam"
Nix, Matthew
Rickard, Zachary
Baker, William

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October 1, 2021

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

TO: 33-21-0094

FROM: Special Agent Jacqueline Gause

RE: Official Misconduct

Welsh, James "Cam" (Trooper)
Baker, William (Trooper)
Rickard, Zachary (Trooper)
Nix, Matthews (Trooper)

COUNTY: Sumter

Introduction

On August 3, 2021, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) received a written request (**Attachment 1**) from South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Chief Kenneth Phelps, to investigate allegations of possible misconduct. On July 29, 2021, Troopers with the South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP) seized a large amount of United States (US) currency from John Holliday after his arrest at a traffic safety checkpoint in Sumter County, SC. After submitting the currency to the bank, a discrepancy of \$3,140 was discovered. SLED Captain (Capt.) Glenn Wood assigned SLED Special Agent (S/A) Jacqueline Gause to conduct the investigation.



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Summary

Chief Phelps provided Capt. Wood, via email, a copy of the following documents: the SCHP Incident Report # SCDPS1052149 (02); Chain of Custody forms for seized money and drugs; a copy of the SCDPS Asset Forfeiture Financial Tally Sheet (AFFTS) from July 29, 2021; a copy of the SCDPS Asset Forfeiture Financial Tally Sheet from August 3, 2021; photographs of evidence bags from July 29, 2021; photographs of currency from August 3, 2021; a typed timeline prepared by SCHP Central Evidence Facility (CEF) Corporal (Cpl.) Matthew Nix; SCDPS Policy 300.15 – Evidence; SCDPS CEF Standard Operating Procedures; and SCDPS Policy 300.16 – Search and Seizure Without a Warrant (**Attachment 2**). The abovementioned documents provide the following information: On Thursday, July 29, 2021, a license checkpoint was conducted at the intersection of Pearson Road and Old Stone Road in Sumter County. The license checkpoint was conducted by SCHP Cpl. James “Cam” Welsh, SCHP Trooper (Trp.) William Baker, and SCHP Trooper First Class (Tfc.) Zachary Rickard. During the license checkpoint, John Holliday, a motorist, approached the intersection. Cpl. Welsh approached Holliday’s vehicle and suspected Holliday was Driving Under the Influence (DUI). Trp. Baker administered field sobriety tests on Holliday. Cpl. Welsh saw in plain view, in the front passenger seat, a plastic bag that contained individually packaged bags of suspected Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) edible gummies. Holliday was subsequently arrested for DUI and Possession With the Intent to Distribute (PWID) Marijuana (**Attachment 3**). Cpl. Welsh located two large bags in the back seat of Holliday’s vehicle that contained a large amount of currency. Cpl. Welsh took the currency from the checkpoint to the SCHP Troop 1 Post A Office, located at 520 South Pike East, Sumter. *Agent’s Note: The SCHP Troop 1 Post A Office does not have any surveillance cameras on the property. This location will be referred to hereinafter as “the office.”* Once at the office, Cpl. Nix met with Cpl. Welsh to conduct a count of the currency. The currency was collectively counted by Cpl. Welsh, Cpl. Nix, Trp. Baker, and Tfc. Rickard. Collectively the Troopers agreed upon \$110,483 as the final count. *Agent’s Note: According to SCDPS Policy and Central Evidence Facility Standard Operating Procedures, the Trooper who seized the currency should have separated the currency by denomination, counted the currency independently, and completed the AFFTS. After the seizing Trooper completed the*

count and documentation, the Trooper should provide the currency to the CEF Trooper. The CEF Trooper should then independently recount the seized currency and ensure the seizing Trooper's count matches the CEF Trooper's count. Cpl. Nix transported the currency to the CEF, located at 1620 Shop Road, Columbia, SC, and placed it into evidence storage. On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, the seized currency was removed from evidence storage by CEF Sergeant (Sgt.) Michael Allen and transported to the bank to be counted. The bank count resulted in a total of \$107,342. There was a difference discovered in the count on the \$20 bill denominations. There were 157 less \$20 bills in the bank count than what was tallied on the AFFTS. On August 3, 2021, after Cpl. Nix notified Cpl. Welsh of the discrepancy in the bank count, Cpl. Welsh told Cpl. Nix about additional currency from the seizure he found in his patrol vehicle on August 1, 2021. Cpl. Welsh did not notify his supervisors at the time he discovered the currency. Cpl. Welsh delivered the additional currency to the Troop 1 Headquarters. The currency totaled \$894.00. On August 3, 2021, Cpl. Nix and Cpl. Welsh were placed on unpaid administrative leave pending an investigation; however, Trp. Baker and Tfc. Rickard were not suspended.

Agent's Note: The interviews summarized in this report represent the context of the interviews and are not verbatim transcripts unless otherwise indicated. Please refer to the corresponding attachments for the complete interviews.

On August 9, 2021, S/A Gause interviewed and obtained an audio/video recorded statement (**Attachment 4**) from S/HP Cpl. James "Cam" Welsh, at the SLED Pee Dee Regional Office, located in Florence, SC. Cpl. Welsh agreed to speak with S/A Gause and signed an Acknowledgement of Voluntary Statement (AVS) form. S/A Gause completed a Memorandum of Interview (MOI), which documented the interview, and it, along with the AVS form, was included in Attachment 4. Cpl. Welsh provided S/A Gause with a typed timeline of the events, which is also included in Attachment 4. Cpl. Welsh provided the following information in his statement and the typed timeline of events: On Thursday, July 29, 2021, sometime in the evening hours, Cpl. Welsh, Trp. Baker, and Tfc. Rickard conducted a license check point at the intersection of Old Stone Road and Pearson Road. John Holliday approached the check point

location and stopped. Cpl. Welsh could smell the odor of alcohol and marijuana coming from inside Holliday's vehicle. Trp. Baker asked Holliday if he would be willing to submit to field sobriety tests, and Holliday complied. Cpl. Welsh asked Holliday to allow Cpl. Welsh to move Holliday's vehicle to the shoulder of the road and Holliday agreed. Cpl. Welsh saw a plastic grocery bag in the passenger seat of Holliday's vehicle. Cpl. Welsh could see, in plain view, what appeared to be several individually packaged bags of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) edible gummies. Cpl. Welsh then saw two large bags behind the driver seat. He looked in the bags and discovered a large, unknown amount of US currency. Cpl. Welsh also located an envelope in the center console of the vehicle that contained an unknown amount of US currency. Prior to removing any items from Holliday's vehicle, Cpl. Welsh used his department-issued cellphone to photograph (**Attachment 5**) the items in their respective positions in the vehicle. *Agent's Note: Cpl. Welsh forwarded these photographs to S/A Gause from his personal cellphone. Cpl. Welsh previously forwarded the photographs to his personal cellphone from his department-issued cellphone. Cpl. Welsh conducted a factory reset to his department-issued cellphone prior to returning it to SCHP. Cpl. Welsh told S/A Gause that he was angry due to being placed on unpaid administrative leave because of the allegations and that he had personal information on the cellphone.* Once the items were photographed, Cpl. Welsh took the currency from the center console and placed it into an evidence bag, which he sealed. Cpl. Welsh then placed the suspected THC edible gummies and the bags of currency on the trunk of Holliday's vehicle. Trp. Baker's patrol vehicle was parked behind Holliday's vehicle at the time, and his in-car camera was recording. Holliday was subsequently arrested and charged with DUI and PWID Marijuana. Cpl. Welsh requested over the radio for dispatch to contact the Sumter County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) and have someone with the SCSO Narcotics Unit respond to their location.

SCSO Narcotics deputies arrived on scene and decided not to adopt the seizure. Cpl. Welsh communicated with his chain of command, and it was later decided that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) would adopt the seizure; however, an agent was not available to respond that night. Cpl. Welsh received a phone call from Cpl. Nix, and they agreed to meet at the office to count the currency. Cpl. Welsh gathered the currency and suspected THC

edibles and placed them in the rear, driver-side passenger seat of his patrol vehicle. Cpl. Welsh provided dispatch his beginning mileage, prior to leaving for the office, and his ending mileage once he arrived at the office. *Agent's Note: S/A Gause reviewed Cpl. Welsh's in-car camera footage that was provided by SCHP, and it is included in Attachment 4. Cpl. Welsh's statement and timeline were consistent with the in-car camera footage. Cpl. Welsh was not issued a Body Worn Camera (BWC) at the time of this incident.*

Cpl. Welsh met with Cpl. Nix at the office and briefed him on the events that led up to the seizure. Cpl. Welsh emptied the contents of the two larger bags onto the table. There were several denominations of bills banded together with rubber bands. Trp. Baker called Cpl. Welsh to notify him of additional money located on Holliday at the jail. Cpl. Welsh told Trp. Baker to secure the money in an evidence bag and transport it to the office. Tfc. Rickard arrived at the office, followed by Trp. Baker. Trp. Baker provided Cpl. Welsh with the money taken from Holliday at the jail. This money was placed with the currency that was found in the large bags at the license checkpoint. Photographs of the bundles of currency in the large bags were taken prior to the rubber bands being taken off. Once the photographs were taken, the rubber bands were removed from the currency. The currency was sorted and separated into denominations. Another photograph was taken of the currency once the denominations were separated. Each denomination was counted and organized in stacks of 50 bills. Cpl. Welsh could not remember the exact number of \$20 bills but estimated there were approximately \$80,000 in \$20 bills. Trp. Baker and Tfc. Rickard both assisted Cpl. Welsh and Cpl. Nix with the currency count. Once the first count was completed, it was discovered that there was an inconsistency with the number of \$20 bills counted. A recount was completed by Cpl. Welsh and Cpl. Nix, collectively. The second count was consistent. Cpl. Welsh could not recall the exact amount that was seized, but he recalled it was approximately \$110,000. Cpl. Nix placed the currency into evidence bags, which he sealed, signed, and dated. Cpl. Nix took possession of the currency and transported it to the CEF in Columbia.

On Sunday, August 1, 2021, while Cpl. Welsh was off, he went to his patrol vehicle to look for documentation on a certification that he thought was in his briefcase. Cpl. Welsh discovered the

currency that he seized from the center console of Holliday's vehicle was still in his patrol vehicle. The sealed evidence bag slid in between his briefcase and the back seat. Cpl. Welsh immediately panicked because he was aware of other troopers that had been demoted and/or moved for mishandling evidence. Cpl. Welsh chose not to contact his immediate supervisor, SCHP Sgt. Paige Dubose, that night because it was late and he did not want to bother her. The following day, Cpl. Welsh called his stepfather, Clarendon County Sheriff Tim Baxley, and told him about the evidence he found in his back seat. Sheriff Baxley told Cpl. Welsh to contact Sgt. Dubose and tell her what happened. Cpl. Welsh did not contact Sgt. Dubose because he was busy and did not have the chance.

On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, Cpl. Welsh was notified by Cpl. Nix that their count of the currency was wrong. After being notified of the discrepancy, Cpl. Welsh told Cpl. Nix about the currency he (Cpl. Welsh) found in his back seat. Cpl. Nix told Cpl. Welsh to contact his chain of command about the currency located in the backseat. Cpl. Welsh did so, and SCHP Lieutenant (Lt.) Mark Danback told Cpl. Welsh to report to SCHP Troop 1 Headquarters with the currency. Once at the office, the sealed evidence bag was opened by Lt. Danback. The currency was counted, and it totaled \$894. A Chain of Custody form was completed by Cpl. Welsh and is included in Attachment 2. Cpl. Welsh was placed on unpaid administrative leave. At the conclusion of the interview, S/A Gause asked if any of the Troopers stole any of the seized money. Cpl. Welsh denied taking any of the seized currency and did not believe any of the other Troopers took the currency. Cpl. Welsh believed the currency was miscounted.

On August 12, 2021, S/A Gause interviewed and obtained an audio/video recorded statement (**Attachment 6**) from SCHP Trp. Will Baker, at the SLED Pee Dee Regional Office. Trp. Baker agreed to speak with S/A Gause and signed an Acknowledgement of Voluntary Statement (AVS) Form. S/A Gause completed a Memorandum of Interview (MOI), which documented the interview, and it, along with the AVS form, was included in Attachment 6. Trp. Baker provided the following information: On July 29, 2021, Trp. Baker arrested Holliday for DUI. Cpl. Welsh located several individually packaged bags of suspected THC edible gummies and a large, unknown amount of currency in Holliday's vehicle. Cpl. Welsh took possession of the suspected

THC edibles and the currency. Cpl. Welsh met with Cpl. Nix at the office. Trp. Baker transported Holliday to the Sumter County Detention Center to offer Holliday a breath alcohol test. Holliday refused a breath alcohol test. Prior to turning Holliday over to the jail, Trp. Baker emptied Holliday's pockets. Holliday had a large, unknown amount of currency on his person. Trp. Baker called Cpl. Welsh to inform him of the currency found on Holliday. Cpl. Welsh told Trp. Baker to video record himself taking the currency from Holliday and placing the currency in an evidence bag. Trp. Baker did so and sealed the evidence bag. Cpl. Welsh told Trp. Baker to radio his beginning and ending mileage from the jail and to the office. *Agent's Note: S/A Gause reviewed Trp. Baker's in-car camera footage that was provided by SCHP, and it is included in Attachment 6. Trp. Baker cannot be seen taking the currency from Holliday and placing it into an evidence bag. Trp. Baker was heard on his in-car camera radioing his beginning and ending mileage into dispatch. Trp. Baker was not issued a Body Worn Camera (BWC) at the time of this incident.*

Trp. Baker met with Cpl. Welsh at the office. The currency that was seized from Holliday by Trp. Baker was placed with the other currency that was seized on scene. Trp. Baker completed an incident report documenting the DUI arrest, while Cpl. Nix, Cpl. Welsh, and Tfc. Rickard counted the seized currency. Once the seizure portion of the incident report was completed by Trp. Baker, Trp. Baker assisted with counting. The majority of the currency was banded together with rubber bands. There were \$100 bills, \$50 bills, \$20 bills, \$10 bills, \$5 bills, and \$1 bills. Trp. Baker took photographs (**Attachment 7**) of the currency. Trp. Baker said that some of the currency was recounted, but some was not. The count took approximately two hours due to the large amount of currency. After the currency was counted, Cpl. Nix took possession of the currency and placed it into evidence bags. A Chain of Custody form was completed in order for the currency to be transferred to Cpl. Nix. Cpl. Nix left the office and transported the currency to the CEF in Columbia.

On August 3, 2021, Trp. Baker and Tfc. Rickard met with Cpl. Welsh. Cpl. Welsh told them that he had been placed on unpaid administrative leave because their count from July 29, 2021, was different than the bank's count. Cpl. Welsh also said that he found currency in the

back seat of his patrol vehicle on August 1, 2021. Cpl. Welsh did not report the found evidence until August 3, 2021.

At the conclusion of the interview, S/A Gause asked if any of the Troopers stole any of the seized money. Trp. Baker denied taking any of the seized currency and did not believe any of the other Troopers took the currency. Trp. Baker believed the currency was miscounted.

On August 12, 2021, S/A Gause interviewed and obtained an audio/video recorded statement (**Attachment 8**) from SChP Tfc. Zachary Rickard, at the SLED Pee Dee Regional Office. Tfc. Rickard agreed to speak with S/A Gause and signed an Acknowledgement of Voluntary Statement (AVS) form. S/A Gause completed a Memorandum of Interview (MOI), which documented the interview, and it, along with the AVS form, was included in Attachment 8. Tfc. Rickard provided the following information: On July 29, 2021, Tfc. Rickard, Trp. Baker, and Cpl. Welsh held a license check point in Sumter County. Cpl. Welsh dealt with Holliday, a motorist who approached the check point. Tfc. Rickard dealt with another motorist for a lighting violation. Cpl. Welsh requested Trp. Baker to administer field sobriety tests to Holliday. Tfc. Rickard stood by while Trp. Baker administered the test. Cpl. Welsh called over the radio to Trp. Baker and told him to place Holliday under arrest. Tfc. Rickard walked over to Cpl. Welsh and saw that Cpl. Welsh had found several individually packaged bags of suspected THC edibles. He also found two bags that contained a large, unknown amount of currency. Cpl. Welsh attempted to turn the case over to the SCSO; however, they declined. Cpl. Welsh transported the currency and edibles to the office to meet with Cpl. Nix. Tfc. Rickard stayed with Holliday's vehicle and waited for the tow truck. After the tow truck took Holliday's vehicle, Tfc. Rickard went to the office.

When Tfc. Rickard arrived at the office, Cpl. Nix and Cpl. Welsh were counting the seized currency. Trp. Baker was typing the incident report for the arrest and seizure. Tfc. Rickard assisted Cpl. Welsh with counting the currency. Cpl. Nix counted the currency alone. The majority of the currency was in \$20 bills. While Cpl. Welsh counted the currency, Tfc. Rickard kept a tally on a sheet of paper on the number of bills being counted. Due to the

large number of \$20 bills, they were laid out on the table in stacks of 50. During the count, Cpl. Nix and Cpl. Welsh both seemed tired from a long day. Once the count was completed, there was no recount behind anyone to make sure that the count was accurate. Cpl. Nix told him that he would take their word on the count. The currency was stacked on top of one another. Tfc. Rickard photographed (**Attachment 9**) the currency.

On August 3, 2021, Tfc. Rickard and Trp. Baker met with Cpl. Welsh, per his request. Cpl. Welsh told Tfc. Rickard and Trp. Baker that the count from July 29, 2021, was “off.” As a result, Cpl. Welsh had been placed on unpaid, administrative leave. Cpl. Welsh also told them that he had found currency in the back seat of his patrol vehicle.

At the conclusion of the interview, S/A Gause asked if any of the Troopers stole any of the seized money. Tfc. Rickard denied taking any of the currency. Tfc. Rickard said that the way the currency was separated into stacks of 50 bills, it was possible that some of those stacks could have been counted more than once. Tfc. Rickard felt that “corners were cut” when the counts were conducted. *Tfc. Rickard did not have any in-car camera footage and was not issued a Body Worn Camera (BWC) at the time of this incident.*

On August 9, 2021, S/A Gause interviewed and obtained an audio/video recorded statement (**Attachment 10**) from SCHP Cpl. Matthew Nix, at the SLED Pee Dee Regional Office. Cpl. Nix agreed to speak with S/A Gause and signed an Acknowledgement of Voluntary Statement (AVS) form. S/A Gause completed a Memorandum of Interview (MOI), which documented the interview, and it, along with the AVS form, was included in Attachment 10. Cpl. Nix provided the following information: On July 29, 2021, Cpl. Nix received a phone call from SCHP Lt. Teresa Alford about a large amount of US currency that was seized during a license check point. Cpl. Nix called and spoke with Cpl. Welsh and later met with him at the office. Cpl. Nix was briefed by Cpl. Welsh on the events that led up to the seizure of the currency as well as the several individually packaged bags of suspected THC edibles. Cpl. Welsh emptied out the bags of currency onto the table. The majority of the currency was banded together with black rubber bands. The bundles of currency that were rubber banded together were stacked on top of one

another. Photographs (**Attachment 11**) were taken of the currency. Cpl. Nix, Cpl. Welsh, and Tfc. Rickard took the rubber bands off the currency. The currency was sorted and separated by denomination. There were \$100 bills, \$50 bills, \$20 bills, \$10 bills, \$5 bills, and \$1 bills. Cpl. Nix began counting the currency, starting with the \$1 bills, then the \$5 bills, and then the \$10 bills. As Cpl. Nix counted the currency, he documented the number of bills on an AFFTS. The \$20 bills were, by far, the most numerous denomination of currency seized. Cpl. Nix, Cpl. Welsh, and Tfc. Rickard counted the \$20 bills together. Once Trp. Baker completed documenting his portion of the arrest, Cpl. Welsh stopped counting and completed Trp. Baker's report. Trp. Baker assisted with counting the \$20 bills. The initial count of the \$20 bills was inconsistent between Cpl. Welsh, Cpl. Nix, Trp. Baker, and Tfc. Rickard. A recount was then performed. The recount between them was consistent. There was a total of 4,301 twenty dollar bills after the recount. All totals were documented on the AFFTS.

Cpl. Nix placed the \$20 bills into two separate evidence bags. The additional denominations were placed into an additional evidence bag. All three evidence bags were sealed by Cpl. Nix in the presence of Cpl. Welsh, Trp. Baker, and Tfc. Rickard. Cpl. Nix signed and dated all three evidence bags. Cpl. Nix took possession of the currency and transported the currency to the CEF. On July 30, 2021, at approximately 4:00 a.m., Cpl. Nix arrived at the CEF, where the seized currency was placed into an evidence safe.

On August 3, 2021, Cpl. Nix was notified by SCHP Capt. Mendel Rivers that the currency from the July 29, 2021, seizure was taken to the bank. A count conducted at the bank reflected a discrepancy in the number of \$20 bills. Cpl. Nix called and told Cpl. Welsh about the discrepancy. Cpl. Welsh told Cpl. Nix that on August 1, 2021, he found an evidence bag in the back seat of his patrol vehicle that contained currency. Cpl. Welsh panicked when he found the evidence bag of currency and intended on taking the currency to the CEF on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Cpl. Nix was placed on unpaid administrative leave. At the conclusion of the interview, S/A Gause asked if any of the Troopers stole any of the seized money. Cpl. Nix denied taking any of the currency and did not believe that any of the Troopers involved in the count took the currency. Cpl. Nix stated that the money was miscounted.

On August 26, 2021, S/A Gause interviewed and obtained an audio/video recorded statement (**Attachment 12**) from S/CHP Sergeant (Sgt.) Michael Allen, at SLED Headquarters in Columbia, SC. Sgt. Allen agreed to speak with S/A Gause and signed an Acknowledgement of Voluntary Statement (AVS) form. S/A Gause completed a Memorandum of Interview (MOI), which documented the interview, and it, along with the AVS form, was included in Attachment 12. Sgt. Allen provided S/A Gause a pre-prepared typed statement, which is also included in Attachment 12. Sgt. Allen provided the following information: On July 29, 2021, Sgt. Allen received a text message from S/CHP Capt. Mendel Rivers. The text message was notification that Cpl. Nix would be responding to Sumter County in reference to a money seizure. The seizure took place during a license checkpoint. On July 30, 2021, while taking evidence out of the safe at the CEF, Sgt. Allen saw a brown paper bag in the safe that was said to contain \$110,482. Sgt. Allen asked Capt. Rivers if he wanted him to count the currency. Capt. Rivers told Sgt. Allen to not count the currency because the United States Marshal Service (USMS) was taking over the case. Sgt. Allen contacted SCDPS Revenue Accountant Jasmine Douglas to set up a time to meet at the bank for the seized currency to be counted. An appointment was scheduled for August 3, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

On August 3, 2021, Sgt. Allen removed the brown paper bag from the safe at the CEF. He saw that there were three sealed, large plastic evidence bags inside the brown paper bag. Sgt. Allen met Douglas at the Sandhills Wells Fargo Bank. Once at the bank, Sgt. Allen took the evidence bags out of the brown paper bag and placed them on the counter. All three evidence bags had Cpl. Nix's initials on the seal of the bag and were dated. Sgt. Allen handed the evidence bags to the Branch Manager, Geoffrey Sanders, and a female bank teller. Sgt. Allen could not remember the bank teller's name. Sgt. Allen watched the female bank teller cut the evidence bags at the bottom, in order to not cut through the initialed end of the evidence bags. Sanders and the female bank teller placed the currency in money counters to be counted. Once the counts were complete, Sanders told Sgt. Allen that the count reflected a shortage. The total money counted was \$107,342. Sgt. Allen requested that a recount be completed. A recount was completed, and the amount was still short by \$3,140. Sgt. Allen compared the count of denominations based off the bank's count and the count that was documented on the AFFTS completed by Cpl. Nix. The

bank count reflected there were 4,144 twenty-dollar bills. The tally sheet completed by Cpl. Nix reflected that there were 4,301 twenty-dollar bills. Sgt. Allen was provided a Cashier's Check and a Transaction Receipt in the amount of \$107,342.

Sgt. Allen returned to the CEF and notified Capt. Rivers of the discrepancy between the currency counts. Cpl. Nix was notified of the discrepancy. Approximately 25 minutes later, Cpl. Nix went to Sgt. Allen and Capt. Rivers. Cpl. Nix told them that he had spoken with Cpl. Welsh about the discrepancy between the currency counts. Cpl. Welsh told Cpl. Nix that he had located currency that was seized from the check point in his back seat. Cpl. Welsh told Cpl. Nix that he was on the way to the CEF to submit the found currency into evidence. Cpl. Welsh arrived a short time later. Cpl. Welsh tried to hand Sgt. Allen a non-SCDPS-issued evidence bag that contained currency. Sgt. Allen directed Cpl. Welsh to take the evidence to Troop 1 Headquarters next door. Sgt. Allen later counted the currency, and it totaled \$894. A Chain of Custody form was signed by Sgt. Allen for the \$894. This signature reflected that Sgt. Allen took the currency out of evidence to count it. Sgt. Allen transported the currency to Wells Fargo and received another Cashier's Check and a Transaction Receipt for \$894. All transfers of funds were documented by Sgt. Allen on a CEF Evidence log.

Sgt. Allen did not believe anyone took the money. Sgt. Allen believed that a miscount occurred due to the amount of cash and the "corners that were cut" when the count took place. Sgt. Allen said that although there was a large amount of currency, Cpl. Nix should have counted each bill himself to make sure the counts were accurate, rather than taking the other Troopers' words on the amount of cash that was present.

On August 26, 2021, and August 27, 2021, Sgt. Allen emailed S/A Gause copies of documents he referred to during his interview. These documents included the following: a photocopy of a Cashier's Check in the amount of \$894; a photocopy of Wells Fargo Bank Transaction Receipt in the amount \$894; a photocopy of a Cashier's Check in the amount of \$107,342; a photocopy of a Wells Fargo Bank Transaction Receipt in the amount of \$107,394; handwritten notes on a CEF Evidence Log Sheet of the transfer of evidence from the CEF to Wells Fargo Bank by Sgt.

Allen; and a Chain of Custody form for the \$894. These documents are included in Attachment 12.

On August 13, 2021, Cpl. Welsh willingly submitted to a polygraph examination. SLED Capt. Bryan Jones conducted the polygraph at the SLED Polygraph Unit, located in the SLED Forensic Laboratory, at 4416 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC (**Attachment 13**). During the administration of the test, Cpl. Welsh was asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing?” Cpl. Welsh answered, “No.” Cpl. Welsh was also asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing this summer?” Cpl. Welsh answered, “No.” At the conclusion of the polygraph, deception was indicated. After the polygraph, Capt. Jones informed Cpl. Welsh that he had failed the polygraph examination. Cpl. Welsh denied stealing any money.

On August 31, 2021, Cpl. Welsh willingly submitted to another polygraph examination, the results of which are also included in Attachment 13. SLED Senior Special Agent (SS/A) Dennis Coggins conducted the polygraph at the SLED Polygraph Unit. During the administration of the test, Cpl. Welsh was asked, “Did you steal any part of that money seized from Mr. Holliday?” Cpl. Welsh answered, “No.” Cpl. Welsh was also asked, “Did you steal any part of that money seized from Mr. Holliday that night?” Cpl. Welsh answered, “No.” At the conclusion of the polygraph, deception was indicated. After the polygraph, SS/A Coggins informed Cpl. Welsh that he had failed the polygraph examination. Cpl. Welsh again denied stealing any money.

On August 13, 2021, Cpl. Nix willingly submitted to a polygraph examination. SLED S/A Caitlin McPherson-Bryant conducted the polygraph at the SLED Polygraph Unit (**Attachment 14**). During the administration of the test, Cpl. Nix was asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing?” Cpl. Nix answered, “No.” Cpl. Nix was also asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing this summer?” Cpl. Nix answered, “No.” At the conclusion of the polygraph, deception was indicated. After the polygraph, S/A

McPherson-Bryant informed Cpl. Nix that he had failed the polygraph examination. Cpl. Nix denied stealing any money.

On August 31, 2021, Cpl. Nix willingly submitted to another polygraph examination, which is included in Attachment 14. SS/A Dennis Coggins conducted the polygraph at the SLED Polygraph Unit. During the administration of the test, Cpl. Nix was asked, “Did you steal any part of that money seized from Mr. Holliday?” Cpl. Nix answered, “No.” Cpl. Nix was also asked, “Did you steal any part of that money seized from Mr. Holliday that night?” Cpl. Nix answered, “No.” At the conclusion of the polygraph, the examination result was listed as “No Opinion.”

On August 26, 2021, Trp. Baker willingly submitted to a polygraph examination. SLED S/A Scott Smith conducted the polygraph at the SLED Polygraph Unit (**Attachment 15**). During the administration of the test, Trp. Baker was asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing?” Trp. Baker answered, “No.” Trp. Baker was also asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing this summer?” Trp. Baker answered, “No.” At the conclusion of the polygraph, no deception was indicated.

On August 26, 2021, Tfc. Rickard willingly submitted to a polygraph examination. SLED Senior Special Agent (SS/A) Dennis Coggins conducted the polygraph at the SLED Polygraph Unit (**Attachment 16**). During the administration of the test, Tfc. Rickard was asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing?” Tfc. Rickard answered “No.” Tfc. Rickard was also asked, “Did you steal any of that money reported missing this summer?” Tfc. Rickard answered, “No.” At the conclusion of the polygraph, no deception was indicated.

Between September 1, 2021, to September 28, 2021, S/A Gause attempted to schedule an interview through Holliday’s attorney, Ceth Land, on multiple occasions, via phone call and email (**Attachment 17**). On September 14, 2021, Attorney Land informed S/A Gause that Holliday had to consider if he wanted to provide a statement. As of the date of this report, an

opportunity to interview Holliday has not been provided by Attorney Land. *During S/A Gause's review of Trp. Baker's in-car camera, Holliday told Cpl. Welsh he had about \$70,000 to \$80,000 in the vehicle.*

The following documents were obtained pertinent to this investigation:

- SCHP Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) Report (**Attachment 18**)

Conclusion

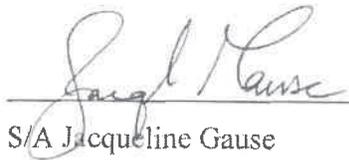
The following statements are based upon facts obtained during the investigation:

- On July 29, 2021, SCHP Cpl. James Welsh, SCHP Trp. William Baker, and SCHP Tfc. Zachary Rickard held a license checkpoint at the intersection of Pearson Road and Old Stone Road in Sumter County. John Holliday, a motorist, approached the checkpoint. Cpl. Welsh made contact with Holliday. Cpl. Welsh detected an odor of alcohol emanating from Holliday. Trp. Baker assisted Cpl. Welsh by administering field sobriety tests to Holliday. In plain view, Cpl. Welsh saw, in the front passenger seat of Holliday's vehicle, a grocery bag that contained several, individually packaged bags of suspected THC edible gummies. Cpl. Welsh located two large bags in the back passenger seat that contained a large, unknown amount of US currency. Cpl. Welsh located an envelope that contained additional currency in the center console of Holliday's vehicle. Cpl. Welsh placed that currency in an evidence bag, which he sealed. Holliday was subsequently arrested for DUI and PWID Marijuana. (Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 18)
- Trp. Baker transported Holliday to the Sumter County Detention Center to offer Holliday a breath alcohol test. Holliday refused the test. Trp. Baker seized an unknown amount of currency that was on Holliday's person. Once Trp. Baker transported the currency seized from Holliday to the Sumter Troop A office, it was added to the large, unknown amount of currency located in the bags seized from Holliday's vehicle. (Attachments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 18)

- Cpl. Welsh placed the evidence seized from Holliday's vehicle at the license checkpoint, in the back seat of his patrol vehicle. Cpl. Welsh transported the seized currency and the suspected THC edible gummies from the license checkpoint to the Sumter Troop A office. SCHP CEF Cpl. Matthew Nix met Cpl. Welsh at the office to count the currency. Cpl. Nix, Cpl. Welsh, Trp. Baker, and Tfc. Rickard counted the currency together. There were \$100 bills, \$50 bills, \$20 bills, \$10 bills, \$5 bills, and \$1 bills seized. Most of the seized currency consisted of \$20 bills. (Attachments 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 18)
- After the count was completed, a total of \$110,482 was agreed upon by the troopers. There was a reported total of 4,301 twenty dollar bills. The currency was transferred to Cpl. Nix to be transported to the CEF in Columbia and placed in a safe. (Attachments 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11)
- On August 1, 2021, Cpl. Welsh located an evidence bag that contained currency in his back seat. This evidence bag was the currency that was found in Holliday's center console. (Attachments 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12)
- On August 3, 2021, SCHP CEF Sgt. Michael Allen removed the seized currency from the safe and took it to the Sandhills Wells Fargo Bank to be counted. A bank count reflected a total of \$107,342. The bank count of the \$20 bills was 157 bills less than the Trooper's count; whereas, the bank counted 4,144 twenty dollar bills and the Trooper's counted 4,301 twenty dollar bills. All other denominational counts were the same. (Attachments 2, and 12)
- Cpl. Nix was notified of the shortage, and he in return notified Cpl. Welsh. Cpl. Welsh told Cpl. Nix that he found currency from the seizure in his patrol vehicle on August 1, 2021. Cpl. Welsh said he planned on submitting the currency into evidence at the CEF on August 3, 2021. (Attachments 2, 4, 10, and 12)
- On August 13, 2021, and August 31, 2021, Cpl. Welsh voluntarily submitted to polygraph examinations. Deception was indicated on both polygraphs. (Attachments 14)
- On August 13, 2021, Cpl. Nix voluntarily submitted to a polygraph examination. Deception was indicated on the polygraph. On August 31, 2021, Cpl. Nix voluntarily submitted to another polygraph examination. No opinion was indicated on the second polygraph. (Attachment 15)

- On August 26, 2021, Trp. Baker voluntarily submitted to a polygraph examination. No deception was indicated on the polygraph. (Attachment 16)
- On August 26, 2021, Tfc. Rickard voluntarily submitted to a polygraph examination. No deception was indicated on the polygraph. (Attachment 17)
- Cpl. Welsh, Cpl. Nix, Trp. Baker, and Tfc. Rickard all denied stealing any of the seized currency, and thought it was a miscount. (Attachment 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17)
- As of the date of this report, Holliday has not agreed to cooperate with SLED on this investigation. (Attachment 17)

This report will be submitted to the proper prosecutorial authority for review.



S/A Jacqueline Gause

Attachments

1. Written request for investigation
2. SCHP Incident Report # SCDPS1052149 (02)
 - Chain of Custody Forms for seized money and drugs
 - SCDPS Asset Forfeiture Financial Tally Sheet from July 29, 2021
 - SCDPS Asset Forfeiture Financial Tally Sheet from August 3, 2021
 - Photographs of evidence and evidence bags
 - SCHP Cpl. Matthew Nix typed timeline
 - SCDPS Policy 300.15 – Evidence
 - SCDPS CEF Standard Operating Procedures
 - SCDPS Policy 300.16 – Search and Seizure Without a Warrant
3. SC Uniform Traffic Ticket # 20212350600417 for John Holliday – DUI
Arrest Warrant # 2021A4310100532 for John Holliday – PWID Marijuana 3rd of
Subsequent
4. Acknowledgment of Voluntary Statement – SCHP Cpl. James Welsh
 - Audio/video recorded interview – SCHP Cpl. James Welsh
 - Memorandum of Interview – SCHP Cpl. James Welsh
 - DVD - In-car camera footage – SCHP Cpl. James Welsh
 - Prepared Typed Timeline of Events – SCHP Cpl. James Welsh
5. Photographs taken by SCHP Cpl. James Welsh
6. Acknowledgment of Voluntary Statement – SCHP Trp. William Baker
 - Audio/video recorded interview – SCHP Trp. William Baker
 - Memorandum of Interview – SCHP Trp. William Baker
 - DVD x 2 - In-car camera footage – SCHP Trp. William Baker
7. Photographs taken by SCHP Trp. William Baker
8. Acknowledgment of Voluntary Statement – SCHP Tfc. Zachary Rickard
 - Audio/video recorded interview – SCHP Tfc. Zachary Rickard
 - Memorandum of Interview – SCHP Tfc. Zachary Rickard
9. Photographs taken by SCHP Tfc. Zachary Rickard
10. Acknowledgment of Voluntary Statement – SCHP Cpl. Matthew Nix

- Audio/video recorded interview – SCHP Cpl. Matthew Nix
- Memorandum of Interview – SCHP Cpl. Matthew Nix
- 11. Photographs taken by SCHP Cpl. Matthew Nix
- 12. SCHP Sgt. Michael Allen typed statement
 - Acknowledgment of Voluntary Statement – SCHP Sgt. Michael Allen
 - Audio/video recorded interview – SCHP Sgt. Michael Allen
 - Memorandum of Interview – SCHP Sgt. Michael Allen
 - Photocopy of a Cashier's Check in the amount of \$107,342
 - Photocopy of a Transaction Receipt in the amount of \$107,342
 - Photocopy of a Cashier's Check in the amount of \$894
 - Photocopy of a Transaction Receipt in the amount of \$894
 - Handwritten notes on CEF transfers – SCHP Sgt. Michael Allen
 - Chain of Custody Form for \$894
- 13. SLED Polygraph Reports – SCHP Cpl. James Welsh
- 14. SLED Polygraph Reports – SCHP Cpl. Matthew Nix
- 15. SLED Polygraph Report – SCHP Trp. William Baker
- 16. SLED Polygraph Report – SCHP Tfc. Zachary Rickard
- 17. Emails between Ceth Land and S/A Gause
- 18. SCHP Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) Report
 - DVD – SCHP Radio Communications

Note: The Agent's Case Management History is maintained in the case file.