

**CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
Sheriff Kristin Graziano  
3691 Leeds Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29405



NONEMERGENCY

843-202-1700



DISPATCH

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CRIME STOPPERS

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## Detention deputy terminated in assault investigation

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022

**NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C.** – On Tuesday, Sept. 13, a resident at the Al Cannon Detention Center reported to staff that he had been assaulted by other residents a day earlier, on Monday, Sept. 12, while in a housing unit at the facility. The resident's statement indicated that the detention deputy in the unit at the time may have been involved in the assault.

The resident was transported to MUSC for treatment. He was released from the hospital later Tuesday and returned to the Detention Center.

Promptly after the resident's report of an assault, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office opened an internal investigation, and the detention deputy was placed on administrative leave. The State Law Enforcement Division also was asked to investigate.

Though CCSO's internal investigation is incomplete, evidence showed the detention deputy had violated agency policy. Detention Deputy Shannon Burden's employment was terminated Thursday, Sept. 15. SLED subsequently arrested Burden on a charge of misconduct in office. Please contact SLED for any details regarding its case.

Burden was hired in March 2018. The termination memo is attached.

CONTACT Andrew Knapp | Public Information Officer | 843-666-1990 | [aknapp@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:aknapp@charlestoncounty.org)

CONNECT WITH CCSO





## County of Charleston, South Carolina

Sheriff Kristin R. Graziano

### Memorandum:

To: Detention Deputy Shannon Burden

From: Chief A. Duffy, Esq. 

Date: September 15, 2022

Subject: Letter of Termination

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On September 13, 2022, the Office of Professional Standards was informed of your involvement with an assault in the Special Management Unit (SMU) at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center. Video footage was reviewed, which corroborated your involvement in a criminal act. Your actions warrant immediate termination for egregious conduct regardless of subsequent additional policy violations of criminal conduct.

Based on the findings of the investigation, you are in violation of the following Detention Center Policies and Procedures:

Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center Policy 3-55.7, Rules of Conduct, Section III, Paragraph B, "Unbecoming Conduct," which states:

"Employees will conduct themselves at all times, both on and off duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. Conduct unbecoming of an employee shall include that which brings the Facility into disrepute or reflects discredit upon the employee as a member of the SACDC or that which impairs the operation or efficiency of the Facility."

Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center Policy 3-55.7, Rules of Conduct, Section III, Paragraph D, "Conformance to Laws," which states:

"All staff will obey all laws of the United States, any state, county or local jurisdiction, as well as any Court orders in both personal and professional matters."

Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center Policy 3-55.7, Rules of Conduct, Section III, Paragraph J, "Unsatisfactory Performance," which states:

"Employees will maintain sufficient competency to perform their duties and assume the responsibilities of their positions. Employees will perform their duties in a manner to the highest standards of efficiency in carrying out the functions and objectives of the Facility."

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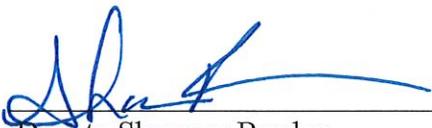
Unsatisfactory performance may be demonstrated by lack of knowledge of the application of laws required to be enforced, an unwillingness or inability to perform assigned tasks, failure to conform to work standards established for the employee's rank, grade, or position, failure to take appropriate action on the occasion of a crime, disorder, incident report or absence without leave. In addition to other indicators of unsatisfactory performance, the following will be considered prima facie evidence of unsatisfactory performance: repeated poor evaluations, written records of infractions of regulations directives or orders of the Facility."

Based on the level of disrepute brought upon the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, I find it in the best interest of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office your employment be terminated. This termination will be effective upon your receipt of this letter.

In accordance with Charleston County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure 3-07 Section III, you have five (5) business days to grieve this decision from the date of receipt. Please follow the guidelines established in that policy.

You may appeal this action. Such appeal should be written and submitted within five (5) working days directly to me.

I have received this letter of termination and understand its contents.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Shannon Burden

9.15.22 1305  
Date/Time

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

09-15-22 1305  
Date/Time



9/15/22 1305