

News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Former Chesterfield Sheriff Convicted on Eight Counts of Public Corruption

(**COLUMBIA**, **S.C.**) A jury in Chesterfield County convicted former Chesterfield Sheriff Sanford "Sam" Parker on eight (8) charges of public corruption. The verdict was returned on April 17, 2014.

Parker was found guilty of five (5) counts of Misconduct in Office, two (2) counts of Furnishing Contraband to Inmates, and one (1) count of Embezzlement.

Judge Lee S. Alford sentenced Parker to five (5) years in prison, suspended on the service of two years of active time, followed by three years' probation on the contraband and embezzlement charges, to run concurrent. Parker was also sentenced to one (1) year on each misconduct charge, to run concurrent.

Parker allowed convicted Department of Corrections inmates to sleep and live outside the jail without supervision, as well as attending special events, in exchange for performing work on Parker's house and personal property and performing work within the sheriff's office. Parker also took property intended for the sheriff's office and used it for himself, in addition to giving uniforms and weapons to civilians.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Heather S. Weiss and Assistant Attorney General Kinli Abee. It was investigated by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).