

# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 5, 2019

## **Southern Pines Police Department Announces an Arrest For: Carrying a Concealed Firearm and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon**

The Southern Pines Police Department announces the arrest of **Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae**, 23 years of age, of Pinehurst, North Carolina, for the following charges: Carrying a Concealed Firearm and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

On July 3, 2019, at approximately 12:05 am, officers from the Southern Pines Police Department conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle being operated by Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae on West Morganton Road in Southern Pines for a traffic violation. Southern Pines Police K-9 "Titan" alerted the investigating officers that an odor of contraband was emanating from inside the vehicle. A subsequent search determined that Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae was concealing a loaded 9mm Taurus semi-automatic pistol inside the center console of the vehicle. Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae attempted to reach into this console during the traffic stop, but was deterred from doing so by the investigating patrol officer. Further investigation revealed that Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae was a convicted felon, having been found guilty in Moore County in March of 2018, for the offense of "Indecent Liberties with a Child." Both North Carolina and Federal law prohibit convicted felons from possessing a firearm. Additionally, Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae is currently on probation in the state of North Carolina and has additional charges currently pending in Moore County for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon and Possession of a Stolen Firearm following a March 2019 arrest. The Southern Pines Police Department will be working closely with our Federal law enforcement partners, and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety's Division of Adult Correction, to pursue further charges.

Chief Bob Temme offered the following comment after this arrest:

*"The brave men and women of the Southern Pines Police Department, supported by an extremely successful K-9 program, continue to perform in an exemplary manner with honor and distinction to the benefit of the Southern Pines community."*

**Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae** appeared before a Moore County Magistrate, and was subsequently incarcerated in the Moore County Detention Center. On July 4, 2019, Paul Lawrence Winter-McRae was released under a \$10,000.00 secured bond, pending a hearing in Moore County District Court on July 24, 2019.

*Contact: Captain Charles Campbell  
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