Arrest involves ties to domestic terrorist group

Police: Man attempted to seize home

BY GREG OLIVER
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SUNSET — A 32-year-old Piedmont man was arrested by the Pickens County Sheriff's Office after investigators learned the individual used a home, located in the Cliffs Keowee Vineyards, as a possible takeover target for a domestic terrorism group.



Campbell

Garnett Radcliff Campbell Jr. was charged with attempted intimidation of law enforcement by use of a sham legal process as well as burglary and trespassing charges in Pickens County.

Campbell, who was released by Pickens County on $10,000 bond each on the intimidation and burglary charges and $1,000 on the trespassing charge, was transferred into the custody of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. In addition to an outstanding bench warrant in Greenville County, in which he is being held without bond, Campbell also faces federal charges as the FBI continues its investigation.

According to the incident report, a real estate agent met with a sheriff's deputy last month at the home on White Violet Way in Sunset. Investigators said the home had been entered by drilling the deadbolt lock on a rear door. The Realtor added that he believed the lock on the front door had been changed, adding that the lock box was stolen with the keys inside from the outside doorknob of a side door.

The Realtor also informed the deputy that pots, pans and cleaning supplies had been brought into the residence and left in the kitchen.

During the course of the investigation, the deputy discovered a document from the "Moorish American Society of Philadelphia" posted on the front door.

"It was just a posting trying to intimidate anyone reading it that they would be sued for trespassing and sued to the fullest extent of the law," said Pickens County Assistant Sheriff Tim Morgan on Wednesday. "It's typical of such groups to intimidate and seek to legally try to tie up people in court."

The sheriff's department stated that investigators on the case, having conducted research from similar cases in the past, were aware that the Moorish National Republic was a citizen's sovereign group whose offshoots are considered domestic terrorism groups by the FBI. The Realtor told authorities that the FBI had actually advised his company that the property was a possible takeover target for the group.

The sheriff's office then contacted the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and made them aware of the incident.

Evidence collected at the scene led sheriff's office investigators to identify Campbell, a former New Jersey resident who they say assumed the name "Noble Yeshuah B. al Nina El" and moved in with his mother at an address in Piedmont. A warrant was then obtained for his arrest.

Deputies then contacted and met with deputies from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, who obtained and executed the search warrant at the home the following day. Pickens County investigators and FBI agents found Campbell hiding inside and took him into custody.

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"A sovereign group, as with any such group, has some that operate at extremes and those are the ones that create concern," Morgan said. "We believe this guy actually believed he could seize the property and that was what he was intending to do."

Morgan said FBI experts have visited th sheriff's office on at least three occasions, informing deputies about the sovereign system and sovereign system movement.

"When we saw the document, that raised a red flag," he said. "We try to keep up with what the trends are."

The assistant sheriff said the monthlong investigation officially concluded Wednesday and that no additional arrests are anticipated.

greg@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6687