

**United Supreme Council, 33°
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA**

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Physical Address
2065 Nonconnah Blvd.
Memphis, Tennessee 38132
Office: 901.716.5110



L. Ken Collins, II., 33°
Grand Secretary-General, H.:E.:

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 16787
Memphis, Tennessee 38186
Office Fax: 901.716.5112

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 11, 2023

Contact: Ken Collins
202.957.1886

**FRED McWILLIAMS ENTERS GUILTY PLEA – CLASS B FELONY
Restitution by the Court set at over \$1.14M and Serve 12 Years Probation**

MEMPHIS, TN – Today, the leadership of the United Supreme Council – Southern Jurisdiction announced their appreciation to the Shelby County District Attorney’s Office for their successful actions to ensure former United Supreme Council employee, Frederick McWilliams, entered into a plea agreement.

“We are happy that the hand of justice has laid down a victory in Mr. McWilliams’ guilty plea,” said Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Sovereign Grand Commander.

In 2015, the USC uncovered theft and embezzlement of funds by Fredrick “Fred” McWilliams. It was found that Mr. McWilliams abused his station and the trust of Officers of the USC from October 2012 to May 2015. Once uncovered, the United Supreme Council worked with law enforcement and prosecutors to provide much needed information regarding the theft and embezzlement of USC funds. As a result, Mr. McWilliams was arrested on June 22, 2015.

“While we knew that time had passed, we knew that justice would not be denied,” continued Dr. Hawkins. “Given the delays in trials and COVID, the Shelby County District Attorney’s Office has a team of true professionals.”

This afternoon, in Tennessee’s 30th Judicial District’s Criminal Court – Division 1, the Honorable Judge Paula Skahan accepted Mr. McWilliam’s Guilty Plea, of a Class B Felony, theft of property. Judge Skahan ordered Mr. McWilliams to serve 12 year’s probation and set restitution at \$1.14 million dollars to the United Supreme Council.

“While we are happy with the close of the criminal trial, we are still going to vigorously pursue the civil trial for the remainder of the stolen funds,” Dr. Hawkins emphasized. “The Shelby County Chancery Court is the next battleground to seek out the funds stolen from our USC.”

The civil lawsuit against Mr. McWilliams is currently before the Shelby County Chancery Court, set for December 6, 2023. Given the guilty plea, it can be used by the court to determine culpability.

“We have a fiduciary duty to seek a civil judgment on behalf of the membership of the United Supreme Council,” explained Dr. Hawkins. “We will see this out to the end, our membership deserves absolutely nothing less!”

The United Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., is a non-profit fraternal order, organized in 1886. The United Supreme Council – Southern Jurisdiction prides its long history of working to support the educational advancement of communities of color and the strict adherence to the goal of fighting despotism and bigotry in all aspects of society.

###

