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**Date:** 4/1/2014 4:31:33 PM  
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<http://www.wistv.com/story/25131183/columbias-economic-development-director-arrested>

## **Columbia's Economic Development Director Arrested For Embezzlement**

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By Jason Old - [email](#)

COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) -

The City of Columbia's economic development director has been arrested in Richland County for embezzling public money while he was employed in Georgetown County.

Wayne Gregory, Jr. was booked into the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center just before 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Gregory is being held at the jail for the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office.

Prior to his employment with the City of Columbia, he served as economic development director in Georgetown County.

Authorities in Georgetown County say a warrant for Gregory's arrest states he embezzled in excess of \$10,000 to purchase pre-paid gift cards for his own personal use while he was economic director there.

According to a release from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, the administrator's office contacted sheriff's investigators approximately a month ago concerning a number of fraudulent purchases allegedly made by then economic director Gregory.

Subsequent investigation by the sheriff's office revealed that between January 2010 and September 2013, Gregory used a Georgetown County purchasing card to misappropriate public funds, investigators said.

Investigators have determined that during his employment, Gregory was able to embezzle more than \$100,000 from Georgetown County and use those funds for personal use, according to the sheriff's office.

Georgetown County Sheriff's investigators traveled to Columbia Tuesday to and meet with Gregory at his residence at his home. Investigators, with assistance from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the Columbia Police Department executed a search warrant at Gregory's apartment.

As a result of the investigation, Gregory was arrested and charged with embezzlement of public funds over \$10,000.

Calls to the city manager's department for comment on Gregory's arrest have not yet been returned.

Gregory was selected as the city's economic development director in September, 2013.

"Wayne is a proven leader in his field with a wealth of experiences from the Upstate to the Low Country and he is a great addition to the leadership team as we work to Build Columbia," said city manager Teresa Wilson at the time.

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