



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS IN CHARLESTON AND DORCHESTER COUNTIES

Agents of the S.C. Law Enforcement Division continue their investigation of two related incidents early Friday morning in which gunfire was exchanged between an individual and law enforcement.

The first incident originated on Interstate 95 Northbound near the Orangeburg and Clarendon County line when the South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP) attempted a traffic stop of a vehicle traveling in excess of 100 mph. Santee Police Department and Berkeley County Sheriff's Office provided assistance to SCHP during the high-speed pursuit. An individual from the suspects' vehicle discharged a firearm at police before pulling into a rest area near mile marker 203 off Interstate 26 Eastbound, where they carjacked another vehicle. The suspects fled the scene in a stolen vehicle. An individual at the rest area was killed during the incident.

The second incident happened after North Charleston Police responded to a report of an armed carjacking at a convenience store off Dorchester Road. North Charleston Police spotted the stolen vehicle and attempted a traffic stop. The suspects failed to stop for law enforcement and a pursuit ensued. The pursuit ended when the suspects ran the stolen vehicle into a retaining pond in Dorchester County. As officers were ordering the suspects from the vehicle, shots were fired at the officers and the officers returned fire. No one was struck during the exchange. North Charleston Police apprehended the man and woman who were involved in both of the incidents. The man was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. No law enforcement personnel were reported injured.

SLED conducts law enforcement officer involved shooting investigations at the request of the agency involved in the incident. These independent investigations follow SLED's guidance in conducting interviews along with the gathering and analysis of forensic evidence. Interviews are being conducted with the responding officers and others.

Information gathered in the SLED investigation of the incident will be summarized in a case file report to be submitted to prosecutors.

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This is an ongoing investigation. No other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time. SLED will defer to the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, North Charleston Police Department and SCHP for any information about their personnel.

The incidents in Charleston and Dorchester Counties were the 16th and 17th officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2020 and the first this year involving the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, North Charleston Police Department and the SCHP. In 2019, there were 45 officer involved shootings in South Carolina; one involved the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, one involved the North Charleston Police Department and three involved the SCHP.

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