



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING **IN DARLINGTON COUNTY**

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are investigating an officer involved shooting in Darlington County involving the Darlington County Sheriff's Office and an armed man, who was later identified as Ronnie Dewayne James, 65, of Hartsville, S.C. No law enforcement officers were injured. James was pronounced dead at the scene.

SLED conducts law enforcement officer involved shooting (OIS) investigations at the request of the agency involved in the incident or the agency with jurisdiction. When requested to investigate an OIS, SLED's goal is to conduct a thorough, independent criminal investigation as timely as is possible under the circumstances. SLED agents will conduct interviews with all potential witnesses in this matter. Further, SLED will collect all relevant evidence and will forensically test such evidence as needed.

Information gathered in the SLED investigation of the incident will be summarized in a case file report to be submitted to prosecutors. This is an ongoing investigation. As such, no other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time.

The incident in Darlington County was the 20th officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2022. This is the second officer involved shooting involving the Darlington County Sheriff's Office this year. In 2021, there were 40 officer involved shootings in South Carolina. The Darlington County Sheriff's Office had no officer involved shootings last year.

A copy of this news release is also on SLED's website: www.sled.sc.gov

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