



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are investigating an officer involved shooting that occurred late Thursday night in Orangeburg County. A Eutawville police officer responded to a call for service. There was an exchange of gunfire between an officer from the Eutawville Police Department and an armed man, later identified as Tyler Mendez, 27. Mendez was shot and died at the scene. No law enforcement officers were injured.

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 Orangeburg County was the 23rd officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2022. This is the first officer involved shooting involving the Eutawville Police Department this year.

In 2021, there were 40 officer involved shootings in South Carolina. The Eutawville Police Department 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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