



## South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

P.O. Box 21398  
Columbia, South Carolina  
29221-1398

*Henry D. McMaster, Governor*  
*Mark A. Keel, Chief*

*Tel: (803) 737-9000*

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Renée Wunderlich  
Director of Public Information  
(803) 260-3020  
[rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov](mailto:rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov)

### **SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN CHEROKEE COUNTY**

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are investigating an officer involved shooting which occurred on Sunday, October 22, 2023, in Cherokee County.

Early Sunday morning, a Gaffney Police officer responded to a service call for shots fired in the area of W. Birnie Street. When the officer arrived at an establishment, the Kongo Lounge, the officer encountered an armed male subject. Following an exchange of gunfire, the armed male subject ran away. The subject was later located at the hospital, being treated for a bullet wound to his leg. No law enforcement officers were injured. SLED was requested to investigate by the Gaffney Police Department.

This is an ongoing investigation. As such, no other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time.

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.

The incident in Cherokee County was the 32<sup>nd</sup> officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2023. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> officer involved shooting for the Gaffney Police Department this year.

In 2022, there were 32 officer involved shootings in South Carolina. The Gaffney 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](http://www.sled.sc.gov)

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