



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

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

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are investigating an officer involved shooting which occurred on Sunday, October 29, 2023 in Aiken County.

Deputies with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) responded to a residence on Hamelin Road early Sunday morning regarding a call for shots fired in the neighborhood. When deputies arrived at the home, they encountered an armed male subject identified as Christopher Heath Whittle, 49. ACSO SWAT and negotiators later joined ACSO deputies at the residence. Following an exchange of gunfire, Whittle was shot and died at the scene. No law enforcement officers were injured. SLED was requested to investigate by the ACSO.

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 Aiken County was the 33rd officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2023. This is the 2nd officer involved shooting for the Aiken County Sheriff's Office this year.

In 2022, there were 32 officer involved shootings in South Carolina. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office had 4 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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