



South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN CHARLESTON COUNTY

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are investigating an officer involved shooting that occurred on Sunday, May 7, 2023 in Charleston County.

Following a traffic stop by Charleston County deputies, there was an exchange of gunfire that resulted in Deputy Evan Cubbage, 34, being shot and a passenger of the stopped vehicle, later identified as James Rakeem Pierce, 28, being shot and dying at the scene. The driver of the vehicle was detained and not injured.

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 Charleston County was the 11th officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2023. This is the 1st officer involved shooting for the Charleston County Sheriff's Office this year.

In 2022, there were 32 officer involved shootings in South Carolina. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office had 1 officer involved shooting last year.

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

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