

# State of South Carolina



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**SCARLETT A. WILSON**

*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release  
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*Charleston, S.C.* -- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that the State would not pursue charges against the Charleston Police Department officer involved in the January 19, 2021 Critical Incident that severely injured Montrez Simmons. (See Attachment). In conjunction with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency (SLED), acting as the independent investigative agency, the Solicitor's Office reviewed witness statements and video from law enforcement. Solicitor Wilson stated, "Based on the evidence presented to me by SLED, I find the officers knew Mr. Simmons was a violent threat and reasonably believed they and others were in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death from Mr. Simmons. They accurately believed Mr. Simmons was armed and dangerous."

This incident began when officers pursued Simmons in a stolen vehicle he crashed after a pursuit. The vehicle was known to have been stolen from an earlier carjacking and Simmons was also a suspect in a Georgetown County murder. When Simmons began to flee, he pointed or presented a firearm at the officers which led one of them to shoot Simmons once. Simmons' gun was recovered at the scene. "Because of obstructions while they were taking cover, the officers' body worn cameras did not show the shooting, though the sounds of the shooting confirm our findings and Simmons and the recovery of his gun were captured. The available evidence simply does not support criminal charges against the officers," Solicitor Wilson said.

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