

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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For Immediate Release

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HAMPTON COUNTY MAN ARRESTED IN OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INVESTIGATION

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) announces the arrest of a Gifford man accused of shooting at and striking Hampton County law enforcement officers.

Melvin Jones, 63, of 843 Murdaugh Street, Gifford, S.C., is charged with two counts of **Assault with Intent to Kill** and one count of **Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill**.

According to arrest warrants, Jones discharged a firearm in the direction of Gifford Police Chief Rosalind Dendy and Hampton County deputies Craig Smith and Teddy Scott on the morning of April 10, 2009.

The law enforcement officers were responding to a criminal domestic violence call at a home on Murdaugh Street in Gifford.

Jones is accused of shooting and injuring Deputy Scott in the legs.

Assault with Intent to Kill is a felony offense punishable up to twenty (20) years in prison.

Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill is a felony offense punishable up to twenty (20) years in prison.

STATS: This case marks the ninth Officer Involved Shooting in South Carolina this year.

There have also been four law enforcement officers injured in 2009. No officer has been killed this year.

In 2008, two officers died in the line of duty, while four were injured during forty-two Officer Involved Shootings across the state.

For information related to Chief Dendy, please call the Gifford Police Department at (803) 625-2712.

For more information related to Deputies Smith and Scott, please call the Hampton County Sheriff's Office at (803) 914-2200.

For a booking photograph of Jones please call the Hampton County Detention Center at (803) 914-2223.