

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



SLED TO ANNOUNCE STATEWIDE VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVE

For Immediate Release

January 11, 2010

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) announces a comprehensive, statewide strategy to reduce the violent crime rate in order to protect families, improve the quality of life of citizens and arrest violent offenders.

The enhanced initiative will be announced during the inaugural law enforcement training session on **Monday, January 11, 2010** at the **Bill Rogers Community Connections Center** on the campus of the **Department of Juvenile Justice** in Columbia, S.C.

The event begins at 9 AM and will conclude at 5 PM.

Director Reggie Lloyd has devised an enhanced initiative with a core set of standards and priorities for SLED to achieve.

Lloyd says, "We will take a more aggressive, proactive approach to lowering violent crimes in the state. We are redirecting assets and placing more emphasis on drug trafficking, criminal gangs, and the overall reduction of violent crime. The protection of women, children and elderly from violent offenders will be a priority in this effort. SLED wants South Carolina to be ranked as one of the ten safest places to live instead of being one of the most dangerous."

Monday's training event will focus on sexual assault cases and the collection of DNA evidence at such crime scenes.

Additionally, the event is designed to enhance investigative techniques and interviewing skills for South Carolina law enforcement officers.

The internationally-known guest speakers for this session are fellow law enforcement members from Virginia. Their high-caliber message is one that will provide substantial value to law enforcement officers who investigate violent crimes in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Crime Victims' Council supports SLED's commitment to reducing violent crime.

Executive Director Laura Hudson says, "DNA is one of the few technologies available than can actually prevent the commission of new crimes. What a gift to our community of potential victims to stop the serial rapist, murderer or thief in his or her tracks before they ruin the life of yet another victim. In Chicago, where only 8 offenders' criminal history were studied, 60 violent crimes were uncovered that

could have been prevented with early detection. Similar cases have been solved in South Carolina.”

Other training events are being planned across the state.

Contact: Jennifer Timmons
Communications Director
jtimmons@sled.sc.gov
Office: (803) 896-7056
After Hours: (803) 737-9000