



South Carolina

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 10, 2024

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information
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SLED INDICTS FORMER NORTH CHARLESTON POLICE OFFICER FOR MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) indicted Louis Marion Smoak, 44, for Misconduct in Office on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

The SLED investigation was requested on January 22, 2024, by the North Charleston Police Department regarding a use of force incident on Dorchester Road in Summerville, SC, on or about November 25, 2023.

On or about November 25, 2023, in a Walmart parking lot in Dorchester County, Smoak did commit the offense of Public Official, Misconduct in Office (8-1-80). The defendant, Smoak, while acting in his capacity as a police officer with the North Charleston Police Department (NCPD) at the time of the incident, did use excessive force against the victim, who was handcuffed, by striking the victim in the chest with a closed fist, forcefully removing the victim from a patrol vehicle, causing the victim's head to strike the pavement, and slamming the victim's head against the patrol vehicle.

The indictment is attached.

Smoak was booked into the Dorchester County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 1st Circuit Solicitor's Office.

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An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



Special Agent Jarius Richardson, SLED

DOCKET NO. 2024GS1802065

After being fully advised as to my legal rights, I hereby waive presentment to the Grand Jury.

The State of South Carolina

County of Dorchester

Defendant

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

November Term 2024

I hereby appear in my own proper person and plead guilty to the within indictment or to

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

THE STATE

Direct Indictment: 2024GS1802065

vs.

Louis M. Smoak

Defendant

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Indictment For

Public Official, Misconduct In Office

Witness

C.C.C. PLS. and G.S

TRUE BILL

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: November 21, 2024

VERDICT

SC Code: § 8-1-80

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

INDICT

2024 NOV 21 PM 12:39
CLERK OF COURT
DORCHESTER COUNTY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF DORCHESTER)
)

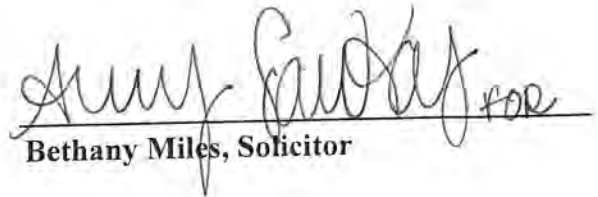
INDICTMENT FOR
2024GS1802065
Public Official, Misconduct In Office
§8-1-80

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on November 21, 2024, the Grand Jurors of Dorchester County present upon their oath:

Public Official Misconduct

That the Defendant, Louis Marion Smoak, did in Dorchester County, South Carolina, on or about November 25, 2023, commit an act constituting official misconduct while serving as a public officer, to wit: the Defendant, while serving as a North Charleston Police Department MPO, did exercise the use of excessive force during an arrest, thereby violating Section 8-1-80, et al. of the Codes of Law of South Carolina.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.


Bethany Miles, Solicitor