

# *News Release*

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## *West Ashley Man receives 8 year sentence for Assaulting an Officer*

**Charleston, S.C. – July 9, 2015** Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that thirty-eight year old Kareem Simmons of West Ashley pled guilty yesterday to assaulting an officer while resisting his arrest for criminal domestic violence.

Simmons became involved in a verbal argument with an ex-girlfriend in the Avondale area of West Ashley on the night of June 1, 2014. Two witnesses observed the argument and flagged down Sergeant Brian Sigmon who was patrolling the area during bar closing. Sergeant Sigmon ran to the alley between Mellow Mushroom and Voodoo Lounge and observed Simmons violently slamming the back of a female's head against a brick wall. Sergeant Sigmon quickly acted and tackled Simmons. During the next 45 seconds, Sergeant Sigmon struggled with Simmons trying to gain control and place him under arrest. During this time, Simmons kned Sergeant Sigmon in the groin, bit his hand, and struck him in the face with a closed fist. Witnesses to the incident say without Sergeant Sigmon's quick action, the victim would certainly have been seriously injured or worse. As a result of the incident, Sergeant Sigmon's hand was broken causing him to miss several weeks from work.

Simmons previously pled guilty to the related domestic violence charge which was charged and prosecuted in municipal court. The DV victim did not support prosecution. After hearing the facts of the case and Simmons prior arrest history, which included multiple DV convictions from the early 2000's, Circuit Judge Kristi Harrington sentenced Simmons to 8 years with the South Carolina Department of Corrections.