

# State of South Carolina



Charleston County  
101 Meeting Street, Suite 400  
Charleston, SC 29401  
Phone (843) 958-1900  
Fax (843) 958-1905

Berkeley County  
300-B California Avenue  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
Phone (843) 723-3800 ext. 4529  
Fax (843) 719-4588

**SCARLETT A. WILSON**

*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

For Immediate Release  
October 19, 2021

Contact: Naomi Nation  
[naomi@scsolicitor9.org](mailto:naomi@scsolicitor9.org)

## **SOLICITOR WILSON STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ACTIVISTS' REQUESTS REGARDING THE JAMAL SUTHERLAND DEATH INVESTIGATION**

*Charleston, S.C.* — On July 26, 2021, I released a comprehensive report that explained my rationale for declining to prosecute the Charleston County Sheriff's deputies involved in Jamal Sutherland's death. The report can be found here: <https://www.scsolicitor9.org/news/2021/saw-report-final-sutherland-death-investigation-07262021.pdf>.

I understand the frustration that some may have with my decision. I will not stand in the way of a review by the South Carolina Attorney General or the United States Department of Justice. In fact, I invited the Department of Justice to investigate this matter in April of this year. I provided my report to the public at large, to the Department of Justice and to our state Attorney General. While I stand by my decision, I welcome the review of other prosecutors, especially those with different statutory options.

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**SCARLETT A. WILSON**

*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

April 29, 2021

M. Rhett DeHart  
Acting United States Attorney  
151 Meeting Street Suite 200  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

RE: Jamal Sutherland / In Custody Death

Dear Rhett:

I hope this finds you safe and well. I am reaching out to you regarding the in custody death of Jamal Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland died on January 4, 2021, during a jail cell extraction by members of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating the matter. Agents have kept me abreast of their investigation and I anticipate receiving their final report in the very near future. I have spoken with the FBI's Supervisory Senior Resident Agent John Warrington and your Criminal Chief Assistant United States Attorney about various aspects of the case and issues regarding a state prosecution. We are slated to meet on Monday.

I am formally requesting the Department of Justice's review of this incident for any potential violations of Mr. Sutherland's civil rights by a government employee acting under color of law. I have met with Mr. Sutherland's family and their attorneys and they too are interested in the civil rights aspects of this case.

I understand the implications of parallel prosecutions and would not anticipate moving forward in both state and federal forums. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please call me at 843-958-1900.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scarlett A. Wilson".

Scarlett A. Wilson  
Ninth Circuit Solicitor

c: Captain Ryan Neill, SLED  
Mark Peper, Sutherland Attorney  
SSRA John Warrington, FBI  
AUSA Nathan Williams, USAO