

**CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
Sheriff Kristin Graziano  
3691 Leeds Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29405



## **Sheriff's Statement on In-Custody Death of Jamal Sutherland**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 11, 2021

**(North Charleston, SC)** Jamal Sutherland died while in the custody of our jail officials in early January. I have spoken to Mr. Sutherland's family and have conveyed my deepest condolences to them. I will continue to make myself available to the Sutherland family in any way possible during this time.

We have had inquiries regarding the video recording of the tragic death of Mr. Sutherland. I believe in transparency, and I understand the public's need for answers. However, the recordings have not yet been released for several reasons, including deference to the Sutherland family. Presently, the family is not ready for the public to see the recordings of the death of their loved one, and I am honoring their wishes. I support releasing the video to the public when the time is appropriate.

Additionally, there are several ongoing investigations, both internally and externally. I must respect the integrity of those investigations to ensure justice is served for both the Sutherland family as well as for our detention officers. Because I do not have all of the answers, I plan to be as helpful as possible with the investigations and continue to stay in contact with the family.

The deputies directly involved in this incident were immediately placed on leave for several weeks and have been re-assigned per policy to administrative duties.

We will continue to work diligently to assess, investigate, and improve our processes within our detention facility.

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