



CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police

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Media Release

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Statement Regarding the Death of John Barnett

Charleston, S.C. – On March 9, 2024, shortly before 10:20 a.m., Charleston Police Department officers were dispatched to conduct a welfare check at the Holiday Inn located at 301 Savannah Highway. Upon their arrival, officers discovered a male inside a vehicle suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Charleston County Coroner's Office confirmed the identity of the deceased as John Barnett (62, from Louisiana) and reports that his death appears to result from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Detectives are actively investigating this case and are awaiting the formal cause of death, along with any additional findings that might shed further light on the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Barnett.

We understand the global attention this case has garnered, and it is our priority to ensure that the investigation is not influenced by speculation but is led by facts and evidence. Given the sensitive nature of the investigation, we are unable to participate in media interviews at this time. This stance is not unique to this case but is a standard procedure we adhere to in order to preserve the integrity of active investigations.

Public disclosure will follow the investigation's conclusion.

Any requests for the incident report should be submitted via this [LINK](#).

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Committed to Truth, Transparency, and Timeliness

Sgt. A. Gibson • Insp. Michael Gillooly • Sgt. C. DuBose • Sgt. C. Stinson • SPO T. Cherry
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