



## County of Charleston, South Carolina

Sheriff Kristin R. Graziano

Memorandum:

To: Detention Deputy Aaron Renaud

From: Chief Deputy J. Smith

Date: January 20, 2021

Subject: I/A 20D-481 Letter of Termination

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On December 11, 2020, the Office of Professional Standards initiated an administrative investigation surrounding your actions which led to the assault of a juvenile inmate. All video footage was reviewed and a criminal investigation was conducted.

During the investigation, you were unable to provide a reasonable explanation as to why there was no video of the incident from your body worn camera. By your own admission, the juvenile was not actively resistive and due to the fact the juvenile was handcuffed, he did not pose a threat to you in any way. After reviewing the video, it was more probable that you acted out of anger rather than the need to use force necessary to gain compliance. Therefore, the use of force was not only excessive, it was completely unnecessary based on the absence of any physical resistance. Furthermore, following the incident, you failed to document the use of force by completing and submitting a Use of Force Report, per policy. In essence, your actions reflected poorly upon the Sheriff's Office.

You were found in violation of the following Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center Charleston County Sheriff's Office Policies and Procedures:

Post Order: Special Operations Group Operator, M, which states:

"Ensure body camera is turned on when responding to an incident or when engaging any inmate during an incident."

1-11.8, Incident Reporting, Section III, D. Supplemental Reports: 1, which states:

"All staff who use force, are an active participant in the incident or as directed by a supervisor will complete a supplemental incident report to support the primary report and a Use of Force Report (SACDC-352), if applicable."

"It is the policy of the SACDC that Detention Deputies shall use only the amount of force which is reasonable, given the facts and circumstances known at the time of the event, to effectively bring an incident under control. "Reasonableness" of the force used shall be judged from the perspective of a sensible Detention Deputy, on the scene, at the time of the incident."

Given these facts, I find it to be in the best interests of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office that your employment be terminated. This termination will be effective upon your receipt of this letter.

You may appeal this action. Such appeal should be made in writing and should be submitted within five (5) working days, directly to me.

I have received this letter of termination and understand its contents.

  
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Detention Deputy Aaron Renaud

  
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1-21-21 @ 1600  
Date/Time

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1/21/21  
Date/Time

The County's Employee Assistance Program, SAVE, Inc., remains available to you within the next week to provide assistance with any personal issues, and may be contacted at (843) 747-5327. Additionally, you may find helpful resources at the Trident SC Works, which has three Charleston locations and offers a variety of training and employment services. They can be reached at [www.toscc.org](http://www.toscc.org) or (843) 574-1808.