

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor



REGINALD I. LLOYD
Director

January 31, 2011

Scarlett A. Wilson
Ninth Circuit Solicitor
101 Meeting Street
Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear Solicitor Wilson,

You have requested that the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) conduct an inquiry into the fire incident that occurred at the Sofa Superstore in Charleston, which led to the deaths of nine Charleston Firefighters.

Based on that request, SLED assigned several agents to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the incident. The agents assigned to this inquiry were chosen based on a combination of specialties that included years of investigative experience, arson investigative experience, and knowledge of firefighting. The agents collectively, and in smaller working groups, have met with a large number of concerned family members, friends, and former co-workers of the deceased firemen on numerous occasions. The agents were provided information orally at these meetings and they received numerous prepared documents.

In an effort to determine if the inquiry should proceed to a full investigative effort, the agents have completely and thoroughly discussed this information, analyzed all of the documentation provided, and reviewed the findings of OSHA and other professional organizations that have conducted independent inquiries into this incident.

It is the duty of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to provide consistent, professional, competent, and impartial service in matters requiring criminal investigations consistent with the best interest of the citizens of South Carolina.



Therefore, based on the totality of the information that the agents have been provided, analyzed, and reviewed, the determination has been made that this matter does not meet the criteria for a SLED criminal investigation, at this time. However, if you have additional mitigating circumstances, this position can be reconsidered.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Heaton, Major
Assistant Director Investigative Services/Special
Investigations/Special Operations
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division