



Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr
Chairman of the Board

Dr. Charles Steele Jr
President/CEO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

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STATEMENT BY DR. CHARLES STEELE, JR. NATIONAL PRESIDENT/CEO, SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON THE SHOOTING DEATH OF WALTER SCOTT, BY WHITE NORTH CHARLESTON POLICE OFFICER

ATLANTA – From the international headquarters of the civil rights organization, co-founded by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Charles Steele issued the following statement regarding the shooting death of Walter Scott, and the speedy arrest of the white police officer involved in the shooting.

“On behalf of the National Chairperson, Dr. Bernard LaFayette and the entire SCLC family, I would like to offer our condolences and prayers to the family of Walter Scott. SCLC pledges our full support to the family in this time of sorrow, and is committed to working with the family and other concerned groups/individuals to making sure that justice is served in this senseless death.

“SCLC will monitor this case closely, especially the involvement and deliberation of, and within, the judicial process. We have seen, all too often, this process play out in the past where there have been video evidence and still no conviction.”

“It’s no consolation to the family, or the black community, that Walter Scott is viewed as another black victim of police prejudice against people of color in this country. Throughout the nation we continue to see white police shoot down unarmed black men with impunity, with absolutely no regard to human life. When did the death become the penalty for a traffic violation?”

SCLC will reach out to the family, as well as the family legal representative and determine how we can best support this case.

We commend city officials in North Charleston for their rapid response in charging the police officer involved. We will reach out to the North Charleston Police Department to offer our help in providing ‘**non-violent conflict resolution training**’. In 2006 SCLC was successful in providing this type of training to the Atlanta Police Department and we feel that it could help other jurisdictions as well.”

Contact the SCLC National Office for additional comments and/or information. 404-522-1420.