



**South Carolina  
Law Enforcement Division**

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May 22, 2017

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

**TO:** File 34-17-0041

**FROM:** Special Agent J. Harvey Owens

**RE:** Officer Involved Shooting

Azzara, Kevin (Deputy)  
Olalde, Juan (Deputy)  
Oliver, Jared (Deputy)  
Rodriguez, Ivan (Deputy)  
Inabinet, Joseph Scott (Subject)

**COUNTY:** Greenville

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**Introduction**

On March 4, 2017, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) received a verbal request from Sheriff Will Lewis, Greenville County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), to investigate an officer involved shooting that occurred at 1717 Scuffletown Road, Fountain Inn, SC. Captain (Capt.) Robbie Hendrix assigned Special Agent (S/A) J. Harvey Owens to conduct the investigation. Lieutenant (Lt.) Jeff Kindley, S/A Charlynn Ezell, S/A Nicholas Parker, and S/A E.D. McCraw assisted with the investigation. SLED Crime Scene S/A Todd Schenk and S/A Jaclynn McKay responded to process the crime scene.



*An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*



### **Summary**

On the morning of March 4, 2017, at approximately 2:00 A.M., Cheryl Inabinet called Greenville County 911 requesting law enforcement respond to her residence located at 1717 Scuffletown Road, Fountain Inn, SC. On the 911 call (**Attachment 1**), Cheryl Inabinet informed the 911 operator she and her husband, Joseph Scott Inabinet, were going through a divorce and he was at the residence with a gun. Inside the residence at the time of the 911 call, in addition to Cheryl Inabinet, were her three children, Brittany (Age 21), Valerie (Age 19), and [REDACTED] (Age 15). She explained that Joseph Scott Inabinet was at the backdoor of the residence with a gun shoved down the front of his pants. She provided the 911 operator with a clothing description, a description of his vehicle, and added that Joseph Scott Inabinet told her to, “Call the cops, I’m ready.” Cheryl Inabinet informed the 911 operator that Joseph Scott Inabinet had a white Bull Terrier with him and the dog was, “probably aggressive.”

GCSO Lt. James Beaver advised SLED agents of what occurred. The incident was also documented in a GCSO incident report (**Attachment 2**):

As GCSO deputies responded, Deputy (Dep.) Kevin Azzara informed other deputies responding to meet with him at a nearby golf course parking lot before approaching the incident location. Dep. Azzara, Dep. Ivan Rodriquez, and Dep. Juan Olalde left the golf course parking lot and arrived in front of the residence. A short time after arriving on scene, Dep. Jared Oliver arrived and joined the other deputies. As they approached the backyard area of the residence, they were confronted by Joseph Scott Inabinet who pointed what the deputies believed to be a weapon. The deputies discharged their weapons, and Joseph Scott Inabinet was pronounced dead at the scene. No deputy involved in the shooting was equipped with a body camera.

The crime scene consisted of the back and side yards of 1717 Scuffletown Road, Fountain Inn, SC, which included a GMC Yukon SUV belonging to Joseph Scott Inabinet. The evidence located was documented in the Crime Scene Investigation Summary (**Attachment 3**) prepared by S/A Schenk. Crime Scene Agents also photographed the deputies that were involved in the shooting incident. On the right side of the residence, ten rifle cartridge cases, thirteen handgun cartridge cases and an empty handgun magazine were discovered. On the left side of the residence, six handgun cartridge cases were collected. A round count was conducted in the

presence of S/A Nick Parker. The round count revealed that Dep. Azzara discharged ten cartridges from his rifle, Dep. Rodriguez discharged thirteen cartridges from his weapon, while both Dep. Oliver and Dep. Olalde discharged their weapons three times each. (*Agent's note: The combined total of handgun and rifle rounds discharged by GCSO deputies was 29 rounds.*) An AT&T ZTE cellphone belonging to Joseph Scott Inabinet was located inside the GMC Yukon SUV. Pursuant to a search warrant (**Attachment 4**) the AT&T ZTE cellphone was examined. A search revealed several threatening text messages from Joseph Scott Inabinet to Cheryl Inabinet. Those text messages are detailed later in this report. S/A Owens also located photographs of a hangman's noose (**Attachment 5**) in the image files of the device.

The Tasers belonging to the deputies involved were retained at the scene by S/A Parker and downloaded by the GCSO in his presence. The Taser downloads revealed the devices were not discharged during the incident (**Attachment 6**).

On March 4, 2017, S/A Owens and S/A Ezell interviewed Cheryl Inabinet at the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Cheryl Inabinet provided the following information that was documented in a voluntary written statement (**Attachment 7**): She received a call from Joseph Scott Inabinet in reference to their mediation hearing scheduled on March 3, 2017. During that phone call, Joseph Scott Inabinet threatened to rip out Cheryl Inabinet's father's throat if he appeared at the hearing. Because of Joseph Scott Inabinet's threats, the mediation was held via conference call. At the conclusion of the mediation, she met Joseph Scott Inabinet at a local Bank of America to deposit an IRS check that required both parties' signatures. While at the bank, Joseph Scott Inabinet became loud and uncooperative. Later that evening, Joseph Scott Inabinet contacted Cheryl Inabinet and requested that their son, [REDACTED] call him. Although Cheryl Inabinet relayed the request to [REDACTED] he did not call his father. She retired to bed at approximately 10:30 P.M. only to be awakened by her daughter Brittany Inabinet around 2:30 A.M. Brittany Inabinet told her that Joseph Scott Inabinet was beating on the residence door. Cheryl Inabinet went downstairs and saw him at the door with a gun tucked into his pants. She called 911 and heard gunfire after the deputies arrived. She looked out of the window and could see deputies performing CPR on Joseph Scott Inabinet. Although she heard the gunfire, she did not observe the shooting. Cheryl Inabinet stated Joseph Scott

Inabinet had been sending her threatening messages throughout the day. She shared those text messages (**Attachment 8**) with S/A Owens and S/A Ezell and gave consent for her cellphone to be examined (**Attachment 9**). It was determined that the text messages she previously turned over to SLED all originated from Joseph Scott Inabinet's cellphone.

On March 4, 2017, S/A Owens and S/A Ezell interviewed Brittany Inabinet at the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Brittany Inabinet provided the following information that was documented in a voluntary written statement (**Attachment 10**): Sometime after midnight, she heard a car drive by her bedroom window. (*Agent's note: Brittany Inabinet's bedroom is located on the left side of the residence, away from the roadway.*) Shortly afterwards, she heard knocking on the back door of the residence. She got out of bed and went into her brother [REDACTED] room. They both saw Joseph Scott Inabinet's dog and assumed he was there as well. Brittany Inabinet went upstairs to tell her mother what was going on. As she stood at the top of the staircase, she observed her mother, Cheryl Inabinet, speaking to her father, Joseph Scott Inabinet, at the side door. (*Agent's note: Brittany Inabinet could not make out the specific conversation between her mother and father.*) Cheryl Inabinet then advised her that Joseph Scott Inabinet had a weapon and she was calling the police. After the deputies arrived, she heard Joseph Scott Inabinet fire his weapon, followed by multiple gunshots. (*Agent's note: Brittany Inabinet assumed Joseph Scott Inabinet fired his handgun based on a pause she heard between the first shot and the shots that followed.*)

On March 4, 2017, S/A Owens and S/A Ezell interviewed [REDACTED] at the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. [REDACTED] provided the following information that was documented in a voluntary written statement (**Attachment 11**): He was in his bedroom when his sister, Brittany Inabinet, walked in and told him she heard someone drive by her bedroom window. She also told him she heard someone in the garage. Brittany Inabinet went upstairs to tell Cheryl Inabinet. [REDACTED] walked into the den and heard tapping on a window. He could partially see Joseph Scott Inabinet outside, through the blinds. After Cheryl Inabinet called the police, he heard gunshots, but did not see anything further.

On March 4, 2017, S/A McCraw interviewed Valerie Inabinet at the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Valerie Inabinet provided the following information that was documented in a voluntary written statement (**Attachment 12**): She was awakened by someone knocking on the front door of the residence. She went into the living room where her brother [REDACTED], mother Cheryl Inabinet, and sister Brittany Inabinet were gathered. Cheryl Inabinet was on the phone with police. After the deputies arrived, she heard gunfire. Valerie Inabinet also added that since Cheryl Inabinet filed for divorce from Joseph Scott Inabinet, he had threatened to kill himself.

On March 6, 2017, S/A Owens and S/A Ezell interviewed GCSO Deputy Kevin Azzara at the SLED Piedmont Region Office. Deputy Azzara provided the following information in a prepared statement (**Attachment 13**): On March 4, 2017, he had just completed his assigned shift and heard a call being dispatched to 1717 Scuffletown Road. Deputy Azzara recognized the address due to a critical incident he was involved with at that residence in February 2016 (**Attachment 14**). *(Agent's note: In February 2016, GCSO deputies responded to the Inabinet residence. A deputy was bitten by Joseph Scott Inabinet's dog, requiring Dep. Azzara to shoot the dog in defense of the other deputies.)*

After hearing the dispatched call, he radioed Dep. Rodriguez and informed him of the February 2016 incident. As he approached the general area of the residence, he was informed by the dispatcher that the caller had lost sight of Joseph Scott Inabinet and had not heard a vehicle leave. He requested Dep. Rodriguez meet him at a golf course parking lot just up the road from the residence. Once at the golf course, an inquiry was made via radio to determine the location of the nearest K9 unit. As he waited for a K9 unit, he retrieved his patrol rifle from his trunk. The dispatcher continued to update the call, advising the deputies that the caller was receiving text messages from Joseph Scott Inabinet stating, "Send the police in to pronounce me dead." Dep. Olalde arrived at the golf course parking lot and the three deputies decided to continue without the K9 unit due to the considerable distance away it was from the call.

Dep. Azzara parked his patrol vehicle in the roadway and approached the residence on foot. As he approached the residence, Dep. Rodriguez was to his left. When he neared the garage, he heard Dep. Rodriguez say, "They've got him around back." As he rounded the corner of the residence, he heard Dep. Olalde yelling, "Show me your hands." Dep. Azzara saw an SUV

backed into the tree line and a man standing near the front of the vehicle's hood with his arm held straight out in front of him in a "shooting stance."

Due to the darkness and distance, he asked Dep. Rodriguez, "Does he have a gun?" as he believed he saw a weapon in Joseph Scott Inabinet's hand. Joseph Scott Inabinet was pointing the weapon down the other side of the residence in the direction of Dep. Olalde. Dep. Azzara raised his rifle for fear that Joseph Scott Inabinet was about to shoot at Dep. Olalde. Before he fired, he heard a shot ring out from Dep. Olalde's position. He sighted his rifle and fired one shot. Joseph Scott Inabinet either fell or ducked to the ground. Almost immediately, Joseph Scott Inabinet reappeared and Dep. Azzara again feared that Joseph Scott Inabinet was going to fire at deputies. He heard numerous shots ring out and he again fired his rifle at Joseph Scott Inabinet. He could not determine if his shots struck Joseph Scott Inabinet, so he continued to fire until Joseph Scott Inabinet fell to the ground out of view.

He and the other deputies advanced toward Joseph Scott Inabinet's position. He visually checked the SUV for other occupants and approached Joseph Scott Inabinet. He could see Joseph Scott Inabinet was gasping for air and appeared to be seriously wounded. Joseph Scott Inabinet was lying on his left side with a weapon in his right hand, finger on the trigger. He "covered" Joseph Scott Inabinet with his rifle as Dep. Rodriguez removed the weapon from Joseph Scott Inabinet's hand, and tossed it three or four feet towards the wood line. He and the other deputies provided first aid to Joseph Scott Inabinet until EMS arrived on scene. Dep. Azzara also noted that his in-car camera was operating during the interaction with Joseph Scott Inabinet. *(Agent's note: The in-car camera assigned to the deputies involved, were downloaded to a server once the patrol units were parked at the GCSO. S/A Owens was provided a disc from all GCSO patrol units that captured the shooting incident.)*

After reviewing the prepared statement with Dep. Azzara, S/A Owens documented follow up questions listed below on an official SLED statement form:

- Q: "Can you describe the path you took when approaching the house?"  
A: "After exiting my car I walked towards the front of the house and then walked South towards the cars in the driveway. I then walked up the driveway on the right side of the house. I went by the garage and to the rear corner where I was then able to see the subject in the distance across the back yard at the tree line."
- Q: "Can you better describe what you first observed when you saw Joseph?"

A: “When I rounded the corner I saw the subject standing at the front of an SUV. His legs were obscured by the hood and I could only see his upper torso. He had one arm fully extended holding a pistol and appeared to be aiming in the direction of Dep. Olalde. I am not sure if the light from my rifle was reaching him, however he was illuminated by a light from somewhere as I was able to see him clearly.”

- Q: “Do you know how many times you fired?”  
A: “I would estimate between 7 – 10 rounds.”
- Q: “Did the subject ever make any statements?”  
A: “None that I heard.”

Based on where his patrol unit was parked in reference to where the shooting occurred, the system only captured audio associated with the incident (**Attachment 15**). After reviewing Dep. Azzara’s in-car video disc, S/A Owens noted the following pertinent information:

- At 2:24:18 – A male believed to be Dep. Olalde states, “He’s got a 10-49.” (Agent’s note: 10-49 is the GCSO ten code for weapon.)
- At 2:25:05 – “Let me see your hands.”
- At 2:25:24 – “It’s a fucking BB gun.”
- At 2:25:36 – First aid can be heard being administered.

On March 6, 2017, Lt. Kindley and Capt. Hendrix interviewed GCSO Deputy Ivan Rodriguez at the SLED Piedmont Region Office. Deputy Rodriguez provided the following information in a prepared statement (**Attachment 16**): He was dispatched to 1717 Scuffletown Road in reference to a domestic disturbance. The dispatcher advised him that the caller’s ex-husband, Joseph Scott Inabinet, was in the backyard, drunk, and armed with a handgun. While enroute to the call, he was advised by Dep. Azzara of a previous encounter with Joseph Scott Inabinet, and was told to use extreme caution. The dispatcher continued to update Dep. Rodriguez with information as it became available. He was told that Joseph Scott Inabinet was messaging the caller and had made threats in the past to commit suicide by a police officer. As he got closer to the incident location, he met with Dep. Azzara and Dep. Olalde before continuing on to the residence. The dispatcher advised him Joseph Scott Inabinet had just text the caller, “Send

someone to pronounce me dead.” As Dep. Azzara was familiar with the residence, he led the deputies in. Upon arriving on scene, they approached the residence on foot. He and Dep. Azzara went to the right of the residence while Dep. Olalde went to the left. Because of Joseph Scott Inabinet being armed, he drew his weapon from its holster as he approached the residence. While making his way around the vehicles on the right side of the residence, he heard Dep. Olalde yell, “Show me your hands.” He ran to the rear of the residence and observed Joseph Scott Inabinet standing in front of a vehicle approximately 40-50 yards away. Joseph Scott Inabinet was holding a small weapon in his right hand, down by his side. Dep. Rodriguez saw Joseph Scott Inabinet raise the weapon in the direction of Dep. Olalde. All the deputies yelled, “Drop the gun.” He heard a gunshot, and knowing Joseph Scott Inabinet was pointing the weapon at Dep. Olalde, Dep. Rodriguez fired. He also heard Dep. Azzara fire his rifle. Because of Dep. Azzara’s close position to him, he knelt to the ground and continued to fire until his weapon was empty. He reloaded his weapon after seeing Joseph Scott Inabinet fall to the ground. With the other deputies, he approached Joseph Scott Inabinet and observed him lying on his side, holding a black weapon with his finger still on the trigger. He grabbed the weapon from Joseph Scott Inabinet and tossed it behind him. Once the weapon was secured, medical aid was provided to Joseph Scott Inabinet. Dep. Rodriguez also noted his in-car camera was operating during the interaction with Joseph Scott Inabinet. Dep. Rodriguez’s in-car camera captured the audio associated with the incident (**Attachment 17**).

After reviewing the prepared statement with Dep. Rodriguez, Lt. Kindley documented the follow up questions listed below on an official SLED statement form:

- Q: “Do you remember if the vehicle lights were on?”  
A: “No, but he was somewhat illuminated, possibly by my pistol light or someone elses.”
- Q: “As you fired your pistol, what effect did it have on the subject?”  
A: “At first nothing, but then I observed the subject fall to his left side but quickly stop his fall with his left hand and attempt to push himself back up. The subject still had the weapon in his hand so I continued to fire at the subject until he fell down on his left shoulder. The weapon was extended in the direction of Deputy Olalde which showed me he was still a threat until he fell over and was no longer moving.”



- Q: “Were you able to review the in-car recording prior to your final statement?”  
A: “Yes”

Dep. Rodriguez also drew a rough sketch of the scene, documenting his position. The sketch was included in Dep. Rodriguez’s statement provided to SLED.

After reviewing Dep. Rodriguez’s in-car camera disc, S/A Owens noted the following pertinent information:

- At 2:24:18 – “He’s got a 10-49”

On March 6, 2017, Lt. Kindley and Capt. Hendrix interviewed GCSO Deputy Juan Olalde at the SLED Piedmont Region Office. Deputy Olalde provided the following information in a prepared statement (**Attachment 18**): At approximately 2:05 A.M. on March 4, 2017, he was dispatched to the incident location in reference to a domestic disturbance. The dispatcher advised him that the caller’s estranged husband, Joseph Scott Inabinet, was outside the residence with a weapon stuffed down the front of his pants. The caller believed Joseph Scott Inabinet was intoxicated and stated “Call the cops, I’m ready” and to “send someone to pronounce me dead.” He was also advised by Dep. Azzara to be cautious with Joseph Scott Inabinet. Once at the residence, he approached from the left hand side with his pistol in a “low ready position,” while Dep. Azzara and Dep. Rodriguez approached from the right. He observed Joseph Scott Inabinet standing behind the passenger door of a dark colored SUV on the far back side of the property. A small dog could be seen in the passenger seat of the vehicle. He focused his flashlight on Joseph Scott Inabinet’s location, yelling for him to show his hands. Joseph Scott Inabinet reached inside the vehicle for something just before yelling, “Fuck you.” Joseph Scott Inabinet extended his right arm away from his body, swaying it up and down several times while holding a dark colored weapon. It was at that time he heard other deputies yelling, “He’s got a gun.” Joseph Scott Inabinet closed the passenger side door of the vehicle and pointed the weapon in Dep. Olalde’s direction, yelling something. Dep. Olalde fired several shots at Joseph Scott Inabinet as he walked away from the SUV and fell to the ground. Dep. Olalde walked towards Joseph Scott Inabinet on the ground and observed Dep. Rodriguez remove a weapon from Joseph Scott Inabinet’s hand. Medical assistance was provided by

deputies until EMS arrived. Dep. Olalde's in-car camera system captured the audio associated with the incident (**Attachment 19**).

After reviewing the prepared statement with Dep. Olalde, Lt. Kindley documented the follow up questions listed below on an official SLED statement form:

- Q: "What kind of light do you have?"  
A: "Streamlight stinger, no other lighting was available."
- Q: "You mentioned carrying your pistol at low ready-what does that mean?"  
A: "In a downward but forward direction."
- Q: "Can you describe the gun that Joseph Inabinet had?"  
A: "Black in color handgun. Appeared to be that of a semi-automatic."
- Q: "Have you reviewed the in-car recording prior to your final statement?"  
A: "Yes"

Dep. Olalde included a rough sketch that documented the sides of the building listed in his statement and where the vehicle was in relation to the residence.

After reviewing Dep. Olalde's in-car camera disc, S/A Owens noted the following pertinent information:

- At 2:24:04 – "Let me see your hands" repeated multiple times.
- At 2:24:18 – "He has a 10-49"
- At 2:24:21 – The first shot fired can be heard.
- At 2:25:45 – A request for a medical kit can be heard.

On March 6, 2017, S/A Owens and S/A Ezell interviewed GCSO Deputy Jared Oliver at the SLED Piedmont Region Office. Deputy Oliver provided the following information in a prepared statement (**Attachment 20**): He decided to respond to the domestic call on Scuffletown Road based on his proximity to the call. Although he was not familiar with the address, he learned from the dispatcher that Joseph Scott Inabinet was potentially intoxicated and had a weapon in his waistband. He added that Joseph Scott Inabinet had exhibited this type

of behavior before. Joseph Scott Inabinet had text the caller that he was, "...prepared to die" and "You better send someone to come pronounce me dead." As Deputy Oliver approached the residence, he observed other patrol vehicles parked on the shoulder of the roadway. His attention was then drawn to flashlights waving around vehicles parked in the driveway, which he later learned was Dep. Azzara and Dep. Rodriguez. The two deputies walked around the side of the residence out of view. Moments later he heard Dep. Olalde state over the radio that he had located Joseph Scott Inabinet's vehicle behind the residence. Dep. Oliver ran towards a flashlight directly in front of him located behind and to the left of the residence. As he crested the embankment, he saw Dep. Shannon McHale to his left and Dep. Olalde directly in front of him. Dep. Olalde was pointing his weapon at Joseph Scott Inabinet, who was out of his vehicle and standing to the left of it. Joseph Scott Inabinet was illuminated by numerous flashlights. Because of the positions of other deputies, he adjusted his path to the right. He unholstered his weapon and pointed it and a flashlight at Joseph Scott Inabinet. As Dep. Oliver moved to gain a better view of Joseph Scott Inabinet, he realized Joseph Scott Inabinet was pointing a weapon at Dep. Olalde. Simultaneously, he heard, "He's got a gun" and other deputies shouting "Drop it, Drop it." He felt as though he had Joseph Scott Inabinet in his crosshairs for less than two seconds before the first shot rang out. It seemed as if he and other deputies began firing at the same time. While still walking, he fired his weapon twice before checking to see if the shots affected Joseph Scott Inabinet. He observed Joseph Scott Inabinet still standing and walking away from the vehicle. Dep. Oliver fired a third shot and observed Joseph Scott Inabinet fall to the ground.

After Joseph Scott Inabinet fell motionless, he and other deputies approached Joseph Scott Inabinet's position. Dep. Rodriguez removed a weapon from Joseph Scott Inabinet's hand. While administering first aid to Joseph Scott Inabinet, he noticed smoke emitting from under the hood of Joseph Scott Inabinet's vehicle. He looked down and saw the vehicle was sitting on unmowed grass in the field. After the incident, while reviewing the scene, Joseph Scott Inabinet's vehicle had moved approximately 30 feet to the rear of where it was located during the shooting. *(Agent's note: It was later determined Joseph Scott Inabinet's vehicle was left in gear and rolled backwards several yards.)*

Dep. Oliver's in-car camera was not activated during the incident. S/A Owens verified that it did not capture any audio or video footage.

After reviewing the prepared statement with Dep. Oliver, S/A Owens documented the follow up questions listed below on an official SLED statement form:

- Q: “You mentioned Scott exhibited this behavior before. Where did that information come from?”

A: “I received that information from Dep. Azzara after the incident. I overheard him saying that he responded to the residence and dealt with the suspect before in a much similar situation.”

- Q: “Can you explain the path you took as you entered the backyard?”

A: “I went around the left side where Dep. Olalde was located. I stayed to his right, between him and the residence. Dep. Azzara and Dep. Rodriguez were behind the house to my right.”

- Q: “Other than your flashlight, were there any other sources of light in the backyard?”

A: The headlights of Scott’s vehicle and the flashlights of other deputies.”

- Q: “What type of weapon did you fire, handgun or rifle?”

A: “My handgun, MRN 871”

On March 6, 2017, S/A Owens and S/A Ezell interviewed GCSO Deputy Shannon McHale at the SLED Piedmont Region Office. Deputy McHale provided the following information in a prepared statement (**Attachment 21**): As her shift ended at 2:00 A.M., she heard the call being dispatched to Scuffletown Road. Because her residence was in the general direction of the call, she continued to monitor the radio traffic. After Dep. Azzara advised he was familiar with Joseph Scott Inabinet, and caution should be used, she decided to respond. Dep. McHale noted she did not sign enroute via the radio because she did not want to tie up the radio with unnecessary radio traffic. She heard the dispatcher advise that Joseph Scott Inabinet had threatened suicide by cop, and that the caller received a text from Joseph Scott Inabinet that stated, “Send someone to pronounce me dead.” As she arrived on scene, she observed two deputies near the residence and a deputy along the wood line. She ran up to the single deputy and recognized him as Dep. Olalde. As they continued along the property, she heard a deputy, via radio, say he saw Joseph Scott Inabinet in the back left corner of the property. She observed him to be standing next to the passenger side of his vehicle directly facing her and Dep. Olalde.

Dep. McHale could see a large black object in Joseph Scott Inabinet's right hand. She heard someone yell for Joseph Scott Inabinet to show his hands. Joseph Scott Inabinet raised his right hand and pointed a weapon at her and Dep. Olalde. Deputies continued to yell for Joseph Scott Inabinet to show his hands. She heard Joseph Scott Inabinet respond by saying, "Don't you see the gun in my hand?" She heard several gunshots but did not fire her weapon because Dep. Olalde was positioned in front of her. She saw Joseph Scott Inabinet crumble and fall. Joseph Scott Inabinet was lying several feet from his vehicle, and she observed Dep. Rodriguez and Dep. Azzara approach him. He did not move but was making gasping sounds. Dep. Rodriguez removed a weapon from Joseph Scott Inabinet's right hand and moved it several feet away. She had a trauma kit attached to her belt and began to render aid to Joseph Scott Inabinet.

Dep. McHale's in-car camera captured the audio associated with the incident (**Attachment 22**). After reviewing Dep. McHale's in-car video disc, S/A Owens noted the following pertinent information:

- At 2:24:18 – "He's got a 10-49."

On March 6, 2017, Lt. Kindley and S/A Parker interviewed GCSO Deputy Craig Johnson at the SLED Piedmont Region Office. Deputy Johnson provided the following information in a prepared statement (**Attachment 23**): He responded to the incident location as a backup unit. Once he arrived at the residence, he could hear deputies confront Joseph Scott Inabinet at the rear of the residence. He heard deputies saying, "Show me your hands," and heard Joseph Scott Inabinet say, "Fuck you." Although he could not see Joseph Scott Inabinet, he observed that all the flashlights were pointing in the same direction. Seconds later, he heard several shots fired, but never fired his weapon. He approached Joseph Scott Inabinet, who was lying on the ground, with other deputies and observed that he had been shot multiple times and still had the weapon in his hand. The weapon was removed by deputies and life saving measures were administered. He left the deputies administering aid and made contact with the individuals inside the residence. Dep. Johnson remained inside the residence until the family was escorted to the GCSO. He then relieved deputies outside, and began providing security for Joseph Scott Inabinet's body. Upon returning to the body, he realized Joseph Scott Inabinet's vehicle was

not in the same place it was when he left the scene to make contact with the occupants of the residence. He was advised the vehicle was still in gear and began to move after the shooting. After reviewing the prepared statement with Dep. Johnson, Lt. Kindley documented the follow up questions listed below on an official SLED statement form:

- Q: “Which side of the house did you approach from?”  
A: “Left”
- Q: “Did you hear deputies and the subject talking or communicating?”
- A: “I heard deputies speaking to subject as I was exiting my vehicle but could not make exactly what was been (sic) said. As I approached from left side I heard deputies say “show me your hands” and the subject responding saying “fuck you!” once I was closer.”
- Q: “When you were inside with the family, did the estranged wife say anything?”  
A: “The wife stated while I was inside of her residence she had mediation via telephone with the subject. She stated the two of them had to cash a check at Bank of America on Fairview Road and the subject stated to her the coroner will pronounce him dead in her yard. She also showed me a text message from subject to her stating a coroner will pronounce him dead at her residence.”

On April 25, 2017, GCSO Sheriff Will Lewis, provided a prepared document (**Attachment 24**) to SLED. Sheriff Lewis stated he knew Cheryl Inabinet from attending the same gym. Approximately two weeks before the shooting incident, Cheryl Inabinet told him that her divorce had taken, “...a turn for the worse” and had become, “nasty.” Although he did not know Joseph Scott Inabinet, he had concerns for the safety of Cheryl Inabinet and her children. Cheryl Inabinet also advised him that she feared Joseph Scott Inabinet would harm her or himself. Sheriff Lewis explained to Cheryl Inabinet the programs available to assist her through the domestic situation.

On March 10, 2017, S/A Owens interviewed Jim Pyles, Operations Manager at Bank of America, which was documented in a Memorandum of Interview (**Attachment 25**): Pyles stated that Joseph Scott Inabinet was in his Bank of America branch on Friday, March 3, 2017,

in reference to a financial transaction. He observed Joseph Scott Inabinet to be visibly emotional while inside the branch, but did not see him act in a disruptive or violent manner. He recalled Joseph Scott Inabinet's wife, Cheryl Inabinet, requesting to stay inside the branch until Joseph Scott Inabinet left the property. He was never in a position to hear any conversation that took place between Joseph Scott Inabinet and Cheryl Inabinet.

On March 10, 2017, S/A Owens interviewed Michelle Olsem, teller at the Bank of America, which was documented in a Memorandum of Interview (**Attachment 26**): Olsem stated that Joseph Scott Inabinet was in the Bank of America branch on Friday, March 3, 2017 in reference to a financial transaction in which she handled. Joseph Scott Inabinet was accompanied by Cheryl Inabinet. While she was completing the transaction request, Cheryl Inabinet received a text message on her cellphone. Joseph Scott Inabinet was heard saying, "Who was that, your boyfriend?" He then became emotional, "sobbing and distraught." He walked outside into the parking lot, leaving Cheryl Inabinet inside. Olsem stated Cheryl Inabinet then explained they had just completed mediation and, "He basically got nothing." Joseph Scott Inabinet came back inside briefly and spoke with Cheryl Inabinet just inside the door of the bank. Cheryl Inabinet then requested to remain inside until Joseph Scott Inabinet left the premises.

During the canvass of the area surrounding the incident location, several individuals were located who provided statements to SLED.

On March 4, 2017, S/A McCraw interviewed Christopher Patton. The content of that interview was documented in a written statement (**Attachment 27**): Patton stated he and his wife had known Cheryl Inabinet for approximately ten years. In the past six months they had come to know more about her "situation" with her husband. Cheryl Inabinet told him she had caught her husband using "meth" and hiring "hookers." About two weeks before the shooting, he noticed her lights on very early one morning. Later that day he observed the back window of her vehicle broken out. He was informed Joseph Scott Inabinet had been camping on the golf course behind the residence, stalking Cheryl Inabinet. Around 2:15 – 2:30 am the morning of the shooting, he heard what sounded like a pack of firecrackers, followed by sirens.

On March 4, 2017, S/A McCraw interviewed Jose Esparza. The content of that interview was documented in a written statement (**Attachment 28**): Jose Esparza stated on the morning of the shooting, he was awakened by his wife who told him she heard something. He saw the police cars on the road and went back to bed.

March 4, 2017, S/A Parker interviewed Tammy Esparza. The content of that interview was documented in a written statement (**Attachment 29**): Tammy Esparza stated she did not know any of the neighbors and it is normally quiet. But, around 2:00 – 2:30 am on the morning of the shooting, she was awakened by gunfire. At first, she only heard one gunshot, but then heard what sounded like fireworks going off. She estimated she heard seven to eight shots.

The following items of evidence were collected from the scene (**Attachment 30**):

- Ten (10) cartridge cases head stamped “FC 223 REM”
- Nineteen (19) cartridge cases head stamped “FEDERAL 45 AUTO”
- One (1) Glock .45 Magazine
- One (1) Bear River BB handgun with magazine
- One (1) black in color walkie talkie
- One (1) fired projectile fragment
- Two (2) fired projectiles
- One (1) Glock Model 21 SF S/N WDD999
- One (1) Glock Model 21 SF S/N MRN871
- One (1) Glock Model 21 SF S/N MRN238
- One (1) Bushmaster Rifle Model XM15-E25 S/N BF1419056

On March 14 2017, S/A Owens received a Forensic Services Lab Report (**Attachment 31**), from the SLED Firearms Department. S/A Owens reviewed the report which documented the findings after examination of the firearms evidence:

- Due to the limited marks of value on the ten (10) cartridge cases head stamped “FC 223 REM” comparison to test cartridge cases fired by the Bushmaster Rifle Model XM15-E25 S/N BF1419056 were inconclusive. However, based on ejector marks on the .223



caliber cases, it was concluded they were loaded and ejected by the Bushmaster Rifle Model XM15-E25 S/N BF1419056.

- Thirteen (13) of the cartridge cases head stamped “FEDERAL 45 AUTO” were fired by Glock Model 21 SF S/N MRN238 belonging to Dep. Rodriguez.
- Three (3) of the cartridge cases head stamped “FEDERAL 45 AUTO” were fired by Glock Model 21 SF S/N MRN871 belonging to Dep. Oliver.
- Three (3) of the cartridge cases head stamped “FEDERAL 45 AUTO” were fired by Glock Model 21 SF S/N WDD999 belonging to Dep. Olalde.
- One (1) fired bullet collected from the body of Joseph Scott Inabinet at autopsy was examined and determined to be fired by Bushmaster Rifle Model XM15-E25 S/N BF1419056 belonging to Dep. Azzara.

On April 21, 2017, S/A Owens received the Toxicology Report (**Attachment 32**) from NMS Labs which documented the content of Joseph Scott Inabinet’s blood at the time of the shooting. Joseph Scott Inabinet’s blood alcohol content (BAC) was quantitated at 179 mg/dL. The presence of Amino Clonaxepam, Venlafaxine, Desmethlvenlafaxine, and Amphetamine were detected in his blood.

On April 21, 2017, S/A Owens received and reviewed the Greenville County Coroner’s Report (**Attachment 33**), which documented Joseph Scott Inabinet suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the torso. Based on the facts surrounding this case, the cause of death was determined to be multiple gunshot wounds to the torso, and the manner of death was ruled suicide by provocation.

The Greenville County Coroner’s Report also included medical records associated with treatment history of Joseph Scott Inabinet (**Attachment 34**). The records revealed Joseph Scott Inabinet was treated numerous times for Major Depressive Disorder, anxiety, ADHD, and depression.

The autopsy report (**Attachment 35**), prepared by Dr. James Fulcher, M.D., documented Joseph Scott Inabinet suffered two gunshot wounds of the right flank, one gunshot wound of the left

flank, and a graze wound to the left elbow. One small caliber jacketed projectile was recovered from the left flank. At the completion of the examination, Dr. Fulcher determined the cause of Joseph Scott Inabinet's death to be gunshot wounds of the torso and the manner of death as suicide by provocation.

On March 7, 2017, S/A Owens received a Forensic Services Lab Report (**Attachment 36**) from the SLED Latent Prints Department. S/A Owens reviewed the report which documented one Bear River BB handgun, one magazine, which were chemically processed for latent prints. No value for comparison was discovered and the items were swabbed and forwarded to the DNA Casework Department. Also chemically processed was one walkie talkie. No value for comparison was discovered and the item was swabbed and forwarded to the DNA Casework Department.

On March 28, 2017, S/A Owens received a Forensic Services Lab Report (**Attachment 37**) from the SLED DNA Casework Department. S/A Owens reviewed the report which documented DNA analysis was performed on swabs from the trigger, grips, slide and base of magazine of the Bear River BB handgun removed by deputies from Joseph Scott Inabinet, and a walkie talkie recovered close the subject's body at the scene.

- A partial DNA profile was developed from the grips, slide and base of magazine of the Bear River BB handgun. The partial DNA profile developed matched the DNA profile of Joseph Scott Inabinet.
- The DNA profile developed from the swabs of the walkie talkie was a mixture of at least three individuals. The major contributor of the mixture matched the DNA profile of Joseph Scott Inabinet.
- The partial DNA profile developed from the trigger swab was insufficient for interpretation.

A search of SLED's internal database (Mapper) revealed no prior entries for any of the parties involved in this shooting incident.

A social media search was conducted by the SLED Fusion Center on the deputies and subject involved in the shooting incident. According to the SLED Fusion Center, the social media search did not reveal any pertinent information on any of the deputies' social media sites. Joseph Scott Inabinet did not have any social media accounts.

The following documents were obtained pertinent to this investigation:

- Dep. Rodriguez SCCJA training records (**Attachment 38**)
- Dep. Oliver SCCJA training records (**Attachment 39**)
- Dep. Azzara SCCJA training records (**Attachment 40**)
- Dep. Olalde SCCJA training records (**Attachment 41**)
- SLED Crime Scene Photo Discs (**Attachment 42**)
- GCSO Crime Scene Photo Disc (**Attachment 43**)
- Greenville County Coroner's Office Crime Scene Photo Disc (**Attachment 44**)
- Greenville County Coroner's Office Autopsy Photo Disc (**Attachment 45**)
- GCSO CAD Sheet (**Attachment 46**)
- GCSO Use of Force Policy (**Attachment 47**)
- Search Warrant for 1717 Scuffletown Road (**Attachment 48**)
- Greenville County EMS Report (**Attachment 49**)
- Joseph Scott Inabinet Cellphone Disc (**Attachment 50**)
- Chain of Custody Forms (**Attachment 51**)
- Criminal History – Joseph Scott Inabinet (**Attachment 52**)

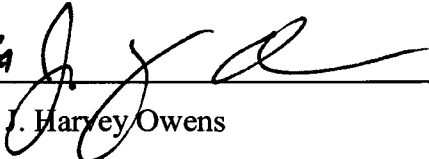
### **Conclusion**

The following statements are based upon facts obtained during the investigation:

- GCSO deputies responded to 1717 Scuffletown Road, Fountain Inn after a 911 request. GCSO deputies were advised while enroute the caller's estranged husband, Joseph Scott Inabinet, was at the residence armed with a weapon. Joseph Scott Inabinet told the caller "Send the police in to pronounce me dead." (See Attachments 1, 2, and 8)

- When GCSO deputies encountered Joseph Scott Inabinet, he refused to comply with verbal commands and pointed what deputies believed to be a weapon. (See Attachments 13 – 23)
- Joseph Scott Inabinet sent multiple text messages to Cheryl Inabinet referencing a confrontation with law enforcement (See Attachments 8, 9, and 50)
- Joseph Scott Inabinet suffered from Major Depressive Disorder, anxiety, ADHD, and depression (See Attachments 34)
- Joseph Scott Inabinet had threatened self-harm in the past (See Attachments 5 and 12)
- Joseph Scott Inabinet's manner and cause of death were determined to be gunshot wounds of the torso and the manner of death as suicide by provocation. (See Attachments 33 and 35)
- Joseph Scott Inabinet's blood alcohol content (BAC) was quantitated at 179 mg/dL. The presence of Amino Clonaxepam, Venlafaxine, Desmethlvenlafaxine, and Amphetamine, were detected in his blood. (See Attachment 32)

This report will be submitted to the proper prosecutorial authority for review.

<sup>9/A</sup>  
  
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S/A J. Harvey Owens

**Attachments**

1. Audio Disc - Cheryl Inabinet 911 Call
2. GCSO - Incident Report
3. SLED - Crime Scene Investigation Summary
4. Search Warrant -Joseph Scott Inabinet Cellphone
5. Photos - Image Files from Joseph Scott Inabinet Cellphone
6. GCSO - Taser downloads
7. Statement - Cheryl Inabinet
8. Text Messages - Cheryl Inabinet
9. Data Discs - Cheryl Inabinet Cellphone
10. Statement - Brittany Inabinet
11. Statement - [REDACTED]
12. Statement - Valerie Inabinet
13. Statement- Dep. Kevin Azzara
14. GCSO - Incident Report
15. Video Disc - Dep. Kevin Azzara In-Car System
16. Statement - Dep. Ivan Rodriquez
17. Video Disc - Dep. Ivan Rodriquez In-Car System
18. Statement - Dep. Juan Olalde
19. Video Disc - Dep. Juan Olalde In-Car System
20. Statement - Dep. Jared Oliver
21. Statement - Dep. Shannon McHale
22. Video Disc - Dep. Shannon McHale In-Car System
23. Statement - Dep. Craig Johnson
24. Prepared Document - Sheriff Will Lewis
25. Memorandum of Interview - Jim Pyles
26. Memorandum of Interview - Michelle Olsem
27. Statement - Christopher Patton
28. Statement - Jose Esparza
29. Statement -Tammy Esparza

30. SLED- Forensic Services Request
31. Forensic Services Report - Firearms Department
32. Toxicology Report -Joseph Scott Inabinet
33. Report - Greenville County Coroner's Office
34. Medical Records - Joseph Scott Inabinet
35. Report - Greenville County Medical Examiner's Office
36. Forensic Services Report -Latent Prints
37. Forensic Services Report - DNA
38. SCCJA Training Records- Dep. Ivan Rodriguez
39. SCCJA Training Records - Dep. Jared Oliver
40. SCCJA Training Records - Dep. Kevin Azzara
41. SCCJA Training Records - Dep. Juan Olalde
42. SLED - Crime Scene Photo Discs
43. GCSO - Crime Scene Photo Disc
44. Greenville County Coroner's Office - Photo Disc
45. Greenville County Coroner's Office -Autopsy Photo Disc
46. GCSO - CAD Sheet
47. GCSO -Use of Force Form
48. Search Warrant - 1717 Scuffletown Road
49. Greenville County EMS – Run Sheet
50. Data Disc – Joseph Scott Inabinet Cellphone
51. Chain of Custody forms
52. Criminal History - Joseph Scott Inabinet