
From: Smith, Leroy <LeroySmith@SCDPS.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 6:35 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc: Smith, Austin; Burns, James
Subject: Re: TEAM DPS -- Thank You!

Thank you, Governor!

Leroy

Director Smith - SCDPS

On Jun 30, 2015, at 1:44 PM, Haley, Nikki <govhaley@gov.sc.gov<mailto:govhaley@gov.sc.gov>> wrote:

Agree Leroy. South Carolina is greatly blessed to have your leadership. We will get through this together.

N-

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 30, 2015, at 9:26 AM, Smith, Austin <AustinSmith@gov.sc.gov<mailto:AustinSmith@gov.sc.gov>> wrote:

Leroy,

Awesome message, but it leaves out one important person. Your leadership and encouragement have been exceptional, including this heartfelt thanks to your officers. I'm sure it can be exhausting to always be on call, but you've never made a single complaint. South Carolina is better for your service, and we certainly sleep better knowing you have our backs! Thanks for everything you do!

Best,

Austin

From: Smith, Leroy [mailto:LeroySmith@SCDPS.GOV]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 8:39 AM
To: SCDPS-ALL
Subject: TEAM DPS -- Thank You!

TEAM DPS:

The past few weeks in our state have been tumultuous ones as we have experienced tragedy and unrest that have affected us all – personally and professionally. The events that began with the murder of nine innocent victims in Charleston, including the Honorable Senator and Reverend Clementa Pinckney, have escalated into a heated dialogue over the Confederate Battle flag. Because of the complexity and varied nature of our mission, SCDPS has been involved in many ways throughout these weeks.

These unwelcome and unexpected events are – in short – why we serve. We are here to preserve the safety and security of our state's citizens and visitors and to respond appropriately to unforeseen situations and tragedies.

Over the past weeks, I watched our BPS officers efficiently – and without incident – move thousands of visitors through the security process on the day of Senator Pinckney’s viewing. I watched them – along with STP and SCHP – secure the grounds outside the Statehouse as thousands of citizens and an unprecedented media contingent descended on the grounds. This weekend, I watched our BPS officers professionally and calmly place two individuals under arrest for an act of civil disobedience involving the Confederate Flag. The images of our BPS officers placing these subjects under arrest ran on media outlets around the globe again and again, and the world saw professionalism on display.

I watched our Highway Patrol Honor Guard compassionately and with grace attend to the caisson and casket of Senator Pinckney -- not only at the Statehouse and his funeral but at multiple viewing locations around the state. I believe I was most proud, however, when I witnessed the continued camaraderie of all law enforcement divisions within SCDPS working alongside each other seamlessly. The Highway Patrol and State Transport Police showed outstanding support to BPS, augmenting manpower and resources.

While the challenges have been great – and to be sure, they are not over – we once again rose to the occasion under trying and stressful conditions. In the midst of punishing temperatures outside and hot tempers on all sides of the polarizing flag issue, we have done our job and remained calm in doing it. In fact, just yesterday our SCDPS law enforcement divisions worked in concert at the Statehouse in bringing about a sense of peace and calmness between parties on both sides of the flag issue. It was our law enforcement officers’ professionalism that created an atmosphere where they were able to be very effective in defusing a serious situation. We must continue to show the rest of the world the steady face of professionalism.

Please accept my most heartfelt gratitude for going above and beyond the call of duty. I have heard many kind words from the Governor and her staff; members of our Legislature; and our state’s citizens about your efforts to serve during this uncertain time.

I encourage you to continue being mindful of your personal safety at all times, and please know that you have my loyalty and support for all you do to make South Carolina a safer place to live and work.

Director Smith

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”A goal we can all live with.”

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