

Video Cited By Police in Murder Charges Shows Officer Shooting Driver

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A [South Carolina](#) police officer who shot and killed an unarmed man Saturday is being charged with murder, officials announced today.

Police cited witness video that appears to show the moment when the officer fatally shot a driver whom he had pulled over this weekend, and the victim's family attorney, who gave the video to ABC News, believes it could prove that the officer used excessive force.

North Charleston officer Michael Slager will now be charged with murdering Walter "Lamar" Scott, 50, who died shortly after the Saturday morning incident. A murder conviction in the state could lead to the death penalty or up to 30 years to life in prison, according to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.



Charleston County Sheriffs Office
PHOTO: Michael Slager is seen in a booking photo released by the Charleston County Sheriff's office on April 7, 2015.

The two videos that Scott family attorney Chris Stewart said were recorded by a bystander, whose name has not been released, appear to show the moments when Scott begins to run away from the officer. While the officer's stun gun is not visible in the video, what appears to be a string is visible stretching from Scott to Officer Slager, where it was apparently attaching the stun gun to his clothing. Scott is seen running away from Slager as the officer proceeds to fire eight successive shots in Scott's direction before Scott falls to the ground.

"I can tell you that as a result of that video and the bad decision made by our officer he will be charged with [murder](#) and that's not something that we like to hear," Mayor R. Keith Summey said at a news conference this evening.

[Dashcam Captures South Carolina Trooper Shooting Unarmed Man in Traffic Stop](#)

The county coroner's office did not immediately return ABC News' calls about how many times Scott was hit, but Stewart told ABC News that of the eight fired shots, four hit Scott in the back and one hit him in the ear. The attorney said two of the shots were fatal.

Slager is shown in the video approaching Scott, who is face down on the ground, and then putting handcuffs on his wrists behind his back. Slager then walks away from the body and another officer arrives on the scene, appearing to bend down and take Scott's pulse as Slager comes back toward the scene and talks to the second officer.



Handout from family
PHOTO: Video obtained by ABC News appears to show Officer Michael Slager shooting Walter Scott after a traffic stop in North Charleston, S.C. on April 4, 2015.

"The video is very demonstrative of exactly what happened," Summey said. "Without the video, and that was the only witness there was, it would be difficult to ascertain directly what did occur. We want to thank the young person who came forward with the video because it helped us to resolve exactly what did occur."

The police incident report states that Slager called in a traffic stop in the area and then advised officers that he was in a foot pursuit of the driver of the vehicle.

Slager then said he had deployed his Taser and requested backup units to the scene, according to the police report.

During his next call on the police radio, Slager said: "Shots fired and the subject is down, he took my taser," the police report notes.

Summey said that they were made aware of the video earlier today and Slager was arrested after meeting with investigators.

"It goes to say how we work as a community," Summey said of the decision to charge the officer. "If you're wrong, you're wrong and if you make a bad decision don't matter if you're behind the shield... you have to live by that decision."

The case is being investigated by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Slager has been placed on administrative leave indefinitely though that was not a mandatory reaction; his placement on administrative leave was decided by his police department and not by state law.

"This is a very tragic event for all of the families," Slager's attorney David Aylor said Sunday in a statement released to ABC News affiliate [WCIV](#) in Charleston.

"Officer Slager believes he followed all the proper procedures and policies of the North Charleston Police Department," Aylor's statement said.

Aylor told ABC News today he is not the officer's attorney at this point. "I have no further information on this situation," he said.

Slager has been a member of the North Charleston police department since 2009 and previously served in the Coast Guard.