



News Release

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Statement from Charleston County Council Chairman on Jamal Sutherland Settlement Agreement

On Tuesday, May 25, Charleston County Council approved a global settlement in the amount of \$10 million with the family of Jamal Sutherland following his death while in custody at the AI Cannon Detention Center on January 5. The resolution is the result of extensive negotiations led by Charleston County Attorney Natalie Ham with the Sutherland family's legal counsel.

"This has been a very difficult time for all of us in the Charleston community. Jamal's death has led to understandable grief and pain for his family and friends," said Charleston County Council Chairman Teddie Pryor. "It is indeed my hope, my prayer and sincere commitment that his unfortunate passing will lead us as a community and as elected leaders to recognize and address the growing challenges facing those in our community who struggle with mental health. If allowed, I believe that out of this tragedy can come positive change throughout Charleston County. We must address this challenge both proactively and vigorously.

While this settlement will not stop the continued hurt, we must begin to heal and have meaningful interactions that allow space for necessary changes. We must not let tragedy lead to turmoil, distrust or worse. I have a deep abiding faith in the people of this community, and I know that together we can move forward. We should honor Mr. Sutherland's legacy by acting with the kindness and gentleness so fondly remembered by those who loved him most."

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