



DILLON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
*Douglas Pernell, Sheriff*

December 27, 2022

SC Representative Jackie Hayes  
240 Bermuda Road  
Dillon SC 29536

Dear Representative Hayes:

I am writing this letter requesting State Funds to help support the Dillon County Sheriff's Office. The purchase of additional equipment is much needed to do the daily functions of the Sheriff's Office and to work Violent Crime and Drugs.

The County of Dillon is located in the Northeastern section of South Carolina. Dillon County borders the North Carolina state line as the first county one enters if traveling I-95 from North Carolina. This major Interstate (I-95) runs through Dillon County and connects various cities with the popular tourist attraction of the South Carolina Coast. Other major highways in Dillon County are Highway 301 and SC Highway 9. Travel on these highways is heavily prevalent year-round. Dillon County has 404.84 square miles and an estimated population of 32,062.

Poverty is very high among families which causes violence, abuse, and neglect among adults, as well as youth. Violent crime and narcotics are a major problem in Dillon County. Interstate 95 runs through Dillon County and has been considered the halfway point between New York and Miami. New York, Atlanta, and New Jersey are referred to as source cities for narcotics according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Transportation of these drugs, as well as illegally obtained firearms, are transported from these three cities on I-95 through Dillon County. The demand for illegal drugs remains high and the quantities seized are a small percentage of the total volume that enters the United States. It has been learned through the DEA and US Customs that drug cartels are using South Carolina's extensive coastlines, numerous rural air strips, and abundant Interstate highways to import large drug shipments to major cities for sale and distribution. Dillon County also borders Robeson County, NC where violent crime is very high and often spills over into Dillon County.



For the past several years, according to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Dillon County has ranked number one in violent crime per capita in the state of South Carolina. Violent crimes continue to rise annually in Dillon County. Violent crimes are categorized as murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. A violent crime involves use of force or threat of force. In 2021, Dillon County ranked number one in violent crime. In 2021, Dillon County also ranked number one in property crimes. In addition, Dillon County had the greatest increase in property crime rates as any other county in South Carolina. The County of Dillon was also hit hard with gang violence in 2021. Gangs have continued to grow even though Dillon County is trying to put pressure on all of them. Murders and attempted murders happen on a regular basis; and retaliation shootings are occurring more and more each day. Different Blood sets and Crip sets are most prevalent; but Black Disciples are responsible for a good bit of issues in the county, as well. Smaller neighborhood gangs, such as Latta Town Squad (LTS), are also among the gang problems in Dillon County.

The Dillon County Sheriff's Department is in desperate need for additional funding for Law Enforcement. The Dillon County Sheriff's Department has seen a huge increase in violent crimes over the last few years. In 2021, Dillon County led the state in violent crimes and property crimes. In 2020, Dillon County had 16 murders. In 2021, Dillon County had 7 murders. Aggravated assaults are at an all time high. There has been an increase in the number of shootings in the past several years. Dillon County is averaging a violent shooting on an almost weekly basis; quite often more than one shooting. Dillon County is also dealing with a very high number of drug overdose deaths.

The Dillon County Sheriff's Office is understaffed in law enforcement personnel. We are in desperate need of more funding for our law enforcement. This money will enable the Dillon County Sheriff's Office to fight the violent crimes and personal property crimes we are experiencing. Any assistance that the Dillon County Sheriff's Department can procure from the State of South Carolina to help combat violent crime and property crime, while making the officer's jobs more safe, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Pernell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Douglas Pernell, Sheriff  
Dillon County, South Carolina

## DILLON COUNTY, SC VIOLENT CRIME STATISTICS

### Key Findings

Dillon crime rates are 49% higher than the national average

Violent crimes in Dillon are 47% higher than the national average

In Dillon you have a 1 in 29 chance of becoming a victim of crime

Dillon is safer than 13% of the cities in the United States

Year over year crime in Dillon has decreased by 6%

Source: <https://www.areavibes.com/dillon-sc/crime/>

### Crime in Dillon County, South Carolina

Crime is ranked on a scale of 1 (low crime) to 100 (high crime)

Dillon County violent crime is 89.3 (The US average is 22.7)

Dillon County property crime is 96.2 (The US average is 35.4)

Source: [https://www.bestplaces.net/crime/county/south\\_carolina/dillon](https://www.bestplaces.net/crime/county/south_carolina/dillon)

Dillon County is the most crime-ridden county, with 1,010.7 violent crimes per 100,000 people. The most common crime is assaults, with 251 total reported cases. Marlboro County follows with 953.0 violent crimes per 100,000 people. Beaufort County had 531.6 violent crimes per 100,000 people. Jasper County had 334.5.

Source: <https://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article33647580.html>

### Dillon County ranked 30th Most dangerous places in AMERICA!

Two South Carolina counties have been identified as two of the most dangerous places in America, according to a study.

Home finding website FindTheHome collaborated with the FBI in conducting a survey on the 30 most dangerous places in America.

Dillon County came in as No. 30 on the list while Barnwell County was next at No. 29.

The website looked at the 2014 FBI Uniform Crime Report (latest complete data) to identify the counties with the highest violent crime rates. Violent crime is defined as offenses that involve force or threat of force.

The violent crime rate is the total number of crimes reported within a county per 100,000 people. Only counties with a population greater than 1,000 are considered.

Source: <https://wach.com/news/local/two-sc-counties-named-in-30-most-violent-l>

Dillon County had the highest violent crime rate in the entire state.

Source: <https://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article236900938.html>