

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Kristin Graziano
3691 Leeds Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405



NON-EMERGENCY
843-202-1700

DISPATCH
843-743-7200

CRIME STOPPERS
843-554-1111

Ladson man facing Animal Fighting or Baiting, Conspiracy, and weapons charges

2024-005714, 20240-006040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 7, 2024

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. –The Charleston County Sheriff's Office arrested Sandy Sharron Gathers, 41, of Ladson, Tuesday, June 4, 2024, with assistance from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). He is charged in connection with weapons violations and various crimes against animals.

At about 4 p.m. on May 15, 2024, Charleston County deputies responded to a residence in the 4400 block of Hardwood Street in Ladson regarding an unresponsive infant. Upon arrival, deputies began to perform CPR on the infant until firefighters arrived, taking over lifesaving measures. EMS arrived a short time later and transported the infant to Summerville Medical Center. The infant was pronounced dead that evening.

The CCSO Criminal Investigations Division is investigating the circumstances surrounding the infant's death. No charges have been filed in this case at this time.

While investigating the home where the infant fatality occurred, deputies and SLED agents located approximately 15 dogs, most of which appeared to be a breed of pit bull. Other items found in the residence and on the property are widely known to be used for dog fighting. Due to the nature of the offense and concern for the health of the animals, a search warrant was obtained.

On May 29, 2024, CCSO deputies and SLED agents executed the search warrant at the residence in the 4400 block of Hardwood Street in Ladson. No occupants were present at the time. Two dogs were located on the property, in addition to one deceased dog. The three seized animals were transported to the Charleston Animal Society. Deputies also seized items known to be used for dog fighting.

On June 4, 2024, CCSO deputies and SLED agents located Gathers at a home in the 4400 block of Garwood Street in Ladson. Gathers was taken into custody without incident. No dogs were found on the property.

CONTACT Public Information Office | pio@charlestoncounty.org

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Gathers is charged with two counts of Animal Fighting or Baiting, one count of Conspiracy, and 15 counts of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Person Convicted of a Violent Crime. There is a co-defendant in this case, however, no details are being released at this time.

Enclosed in this release are the affidavits with each charge. In a bond hearing on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, Gathers was given a \$250,000 surety bond.

Gathers is being held in the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center. Booking photos can be found online at <https://inmatesearch.charlestoncounty.org/>. For photos of people already released, click the "Show Past Bookings" box.

While Gathers is charged in this case, this remains an active investigation. Anyone who may have additional information about this incident, or any dog fighting cases in South Carolina, should contact CCSO at 843-202-1700, Crimestoppers of the Lowcountry at 843- 554-1111, or email SLED at tips@sled.sc.gov.

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