



# COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF CHARLES GHENT

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## CITATIONS ISSUED FOR VIOLATING STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDER

Colleton County, SC (April 3, 2020): The Colleton County Sheriff's Office has issued citations to individuals for violating a provision of the Governor's order of a State of Emergency. On the evening of Wednesday, April 1, 2020, Colleton County deputies responded to the area of Hwy 21 near Phoenix Circle in Smoaks, SC, a known location for illegal street racing. Deputies encountered a large crowd of approximately 150 individuals. Warnings were issued, and the group cooperated with law enforcement by vacating the area.

Last night, on April 2, 2020, Colleton County deputies were patrolling in the same area and encountered another large crowd consisting of approximately 60 vehicles and over 100 people. Deputies issued 31 citations to individuals from Colleton, Dorchester, Orangeburg, and Beaufort counties for a violation of SC State Statute 16-7-10. These citations carry a penalty of fines and/or jail time. This incident is the first time during the COVID-19 pandemic that Colleton County deputies have issued citations for violation of the Governor's order of a State of Emergency.

"The actions of these individuals represent a shameful disregard for the safety of the public and the orders of the Governor of South Carolina. This type of activity will not be tolerated. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office will continue to do everything in our power to ensure the safety and security of our citizens," said Sheriff Ghent.

If you or someone you know observes something suspicious in your area, please call us immediately at 843-549-2211.