



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CORONER

Angie F. Rita - Coroner

Press Release

01/27/2025

The Saluda County Coroner's Office responded to a two-vehicle collision in the late evening of Sunday, January 26th on Highway 121 South / Johnston Hwy. near JDM Road (Saluda County). A 2014 Dodge Journey was traveling north and collided with a 2001 GMC Yukon traveling south. The crash happened around 10:15 PM. Both drivers of the vehicles were pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Angie F. Rita. The Coroner's Office has identified the two drivers as Jashaun Jy Quez Howard, age 22 of Vienna, GA and Agustin Ensaldo-Martinez, age 22 of Johnston, SC (Saluda County). There were also two passengers injured in the GMC Yukon and taken to an area hospital.

The fatal collision is being investigated by the SC Highway Patrol and the Coroner's Office. Autopsies are scheduled for later this week.

We would like to thank our first responders starting with our Saluda County Dispatchers, Saluda County EMS, Saluda County Fire Service, Saluda County Sheriff's Office, Johnston Fire Department and SC Hwy Patrol for their assistance at the scene.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Howard and Mr. Ensaldo-Martinez.