

1973 WL 27610 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

September 12, 1973

*1 Mr. Ed McElveen
County Courthouse
Lee County
Bishopville, South Carolina

Dear Mr. McElveen:

You have inquired on behalf of County Council for Lee County as to whether the County Council has the authority to conduct an investigation of the affairs of the office of Sheriff of Lee County.

It is my opinion that the County Council has such authority. The County Council is the governing body for Lee County designed to create a more efficient and effective form of local government and to define responsibility for the overall coordination and operation of all County governmental officials. Its powers with respect to the office of Sheriff and other certain officers are limited by the provisions of Section 9(e) of the organic Act creating the County Council (68 Acts 3153) but, subject to the limitations imposed by this section, the County Council has, in my opinion, the authority to conduct such investigations and make such inquiries as are necessary in the performance of its duties as the governing body of Lee County. This authority extends to all County governmental operations which include all the various County offices, among which is that of the office of Sheriff.

Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General

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