



to exceed the millage rate cap. Given the complex nature of setting up a county police department through consolidation of multiple law enforcement organizations, Allendale County is seeking guidance on the following:

- (1) Would Allendale County be permitted to use current millage to fund the operations of a county police department created under Section 4-9-33 of the South Carolina Code?
- (2) Would the creation of a county police department under Section 4-9-33 of the South Carolina Code constitute a new or future service rather than an ongoing service such that an increase in millage may be imposed to fund the operations?

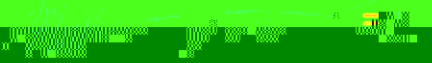
Mr. Matthew Connelly  
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All counties of the State ... have authority to enact regulations, resolutions, and  
~~ordinances not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of this State~~



plain and unambiguous, “the text of a statute is considered the best evidence of the legislative

In the first paragraph of section 4-9-33, the plain language of the statute allows the creation of a county police department “which would duplicate or replace the law enforcement functions of a sheriff.” S.C. Code § 4-9-33 (emphasis added). The use of the words “duplicate” and “replace” strongly suggests the Legislature did not intend county police departments to provide new or

  
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