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Date: 11/10/2016 9:29:26 AM
Subject: privileged

On October 13, 2016, a majority of the Richland County Legislative Delegation^[1] requested the Governor exercise her power of removal under South Carolina Section 1-3-240(A)(3) to remove five commissioners from the Richland County Recreation Commission (RCRC). The five Commissioners are J. Marie Green, Chair; Barbara Mickens, Vice Chair; Weston A. Furgess, Jr., Secretary; George D. Martin, Jr.; and Joseph B. Weeks. The Delegation did not request the removal of Commissioners Wilbert Lewis and Thomas Clark, who are also Commissioners on the RCRC Board. On October 18, 2016, the five Commissioners responded. On October 19, 2016, Governor Haley requested additional documents from all seven Commissioners. The RCRC Commissioners provided a response on October 28, 2016. The Governor has reviewed the documents and finds clear and convincing evidence that the Board members are subject to removal under South Carolina statute Section 1-3-240 under the causes of neglect of duty in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, and incompetency.^[2]

^[1]Ten of the seventeen member delegation signed the letter: Senators Joel Lourie, John Courson and Thomas McElveen, and Representatives Beth Bernstein, James Smith, Nathan Ballentine, Kirkman Finlay, Mary Gail Douglas, Joe McEachern, and Mia McLeod.

^[1] As the Board sits as a body and answers as a body, all Board members are included. The documents do not set forth each individual Board member's actions or inactions. Further, Commissioners Weeks and Clark are both new members, appointed February of 2016, and the documents do not set forth all past actions they may or may not have known.

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