

## **INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE\***

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

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### **Legislative – Ratification:**

Today, the General Assembly ratified the following bills, which are due by midnight on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>:

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| 1. R184, H.3343 | Euthanasia of Shelter Animals                                 |
| 2. R185, H.4705 | Lancaster County Voting Precincts                             |
| 3. R186, H.4743 | Establishment of the Conestee Wildlife Refuge                 |
| 4. R187, H.4786 | Regulations Related to Local Emergency Preparedness Standards |
| 5. R188, H.4940 | State Department of Education Office of Transformation        |
| 6. R189, H.5009 | Textile Revitalization Income Tax Credit                      |
| 7. R190, H.5066 | Beaufort County Board of Education                            |
| 8. R191, H.5218 | Water Safety Awareness Month                                  |

### **Legislative – Local Option Tourism Fee Bill:**

Recall that Senator Rankin and Rep. Clemmons have filed bills regarding the imposition of a Local Option Tourism Development Fee, S.1122 and H.5011 respectively. Today, staff spoke with Sen. Rankin. The bill crossed over and was recalled from the Finance committee and placed on the calendar. Staff explained policy concerns and provided an amendment that would make it clear that this fee could only be imposed or re-imposed by public referendum and not by an ordinance passed by the local governing body. He was very uncooperative and would not agree to amend the bill and it was given 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the Senate today.

Staff met with Rep. Clemmons last week and shared the same policy concerns and he amended S.1122 (Rankin), which had also crossed over, in subcommittee. The bill will be taken up in full Ways & Means this week.

### **Commission on the Advancement of Public Safety:**

Yesterday, Chief Keel and Dir. Leroy Smith chaired a meeting of this Commission to discuss progress of the recommendations being developed in the following key areas:

- Community Relations – North Charleston (Chief Mullen) has held listening sessions attended by 750 citizens and worked with federal/local partners to develop a template of policies that can be used by other local governments year-round and post-event (officer involved shooting) for improved community and media relations.
- Hiring Practices – The Commission discussed the importance of defining what constitutes a thorough background investigation for the hiring of officers to advise local agencies and how that information can be shared amongst agencies as officers often move to other agencies upon termination.

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*\*This document is a transitory and temporary record created for short-term internal purposes that includes informal materials that do not record decisions.*

- Officer Training – The Commission discussed the following ideas:
  - Strengthen Field Officer Training programs in local agencies (FTO) so that Academy graduates can work side-by-side with experienced officers before working on their own and can improve the communication and soft skills that today's younger officers lack.
  - Reform how the Academy is funded and at what level (currently, through fines/fees from local governments, which are often not submitted).
  - Improve competitive wages and remove barriers for retirees for Academy trainers in order to attract the most experienced and qualified officers for these positions.
  - Increase training at the Academy from 12 weeks to 15 weeks (national average is 16-18 weeks) without exacerbating the current seven month waitlist.
  
- Professionalism and Cultural Training – The Commission discussed the move to have all 12,000 Class 1 officers over the next three years take DOJ-created professionalism and cultural training course, which was/is the same training that all officers who work Bikefest must take.

Due to Horry County Police Chief Sandra Rhodes' resignation and Academy Director Hubert Harrell's retirement (June 30<sup>th</sup>), Chief Keel will be making recommendations to the Governor to fill these vacancies on the Commission.

#### **Bikefest – Memorial Day Weekend 2016:**

Becca spoke with Chief Keel and Director Smith, and all of the same plans will be in place for this year's Bikefest as were last year, except for a few minor tweaks. The 23 mile loop will still be implemented, and additional officers will be assigned to Atlantic Beach. Local governments will again pay their share for state officers to work. There is no intelligence for any abnormal or above-normal gang activity.

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