

## **INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE\***

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

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### **Legal – Denial of Safekeeper:**

The Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center requested the transfer of an inmate to the Department of Corrections as a safekeeper. Director Stirling recommended denial of this request due to the inmate's documented mental illness which is prohibited by Executive Order 2000-11. We agreed with Dir. Stirling's recommendation, so the safekeeper request was denied.

### **Senate – Bill Movements Today:**

- DV Fatality Review Bill (Pope/Hembree) – Senate Judiciary passed the House version 19-0. Thanks goes to Senator Hembree and Chairman Martin.
- Municipal Incorporation Bill (Hembree; re. Atlantic Beach) – Senate Judiciary passed the Senate version. Thanks goes to Senator Hembree.
- Car Dealer Closing Fees (L. Martin) – Senate Judiciary passed the Senate version with a Minority Report from Sen. Hutto.

### **House – Bill Movements Today:**

- Appointing of Sec. of Transportation by DOT Commission – Rep. Delleney recommitted this bill, which was originally on the House calendar without reference.
- Local Camden Property Bill (Sheheen) – Rep. Funderburk recommitted this bill after our office's efforts to help the city without legislation by working closely with the City Manager, State Fire Marshal, and property owner.

### **K-12 Education – First Steps & Facilities:**

Today, our staff emailed draft language for the First Steps reform and the Facilities bill to Reps. Bingham, Allison, and James Smith and their staffs to review. Staff will be available to meet with stakeholders throughout the week regarding the language.

### **DV Task Force – DV Prosecutor Funding (\$2.9 million):**

Here is a short list of pork items in the House Ways & Means budget that were funded, rather than the \$2.9 million to end officer prosecutions of DV cases in magistrate or municipal court:

- \$1 million for the SC Aquarium
- \$1.2 million for sports marketing
- \$500k for SC Artisans Center
- \$350k for College of Charleston art museum

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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.*

Although these items were funded with nonrecurring dollars (and our DV recommendation was funding with recurring), these items are still straight pork.

**House Oversight – DJJ: SEE ATTACHED**

Chairman Newton met with Austin today regarding Friday night's incident at DJJ and delivered the attached letter describing comments the Oversight Committee received after the incident. The concerns expressed by anonymous employees of DJJ relate to safety of juveniles and employees, control of the Broad River Road Complex, relations between staff and management, and staffing levels. The letter will be posted on the Oversight Committee's website tomorrow.

**DOT & Commerce – I-77 / Hwy 160 Interchange:**

From Sec. Hall – For the SC 160 Interchange, currently there is funding set aside to begin the design work this year for an improved interchange. The balance of the project is currently unfunded. It is our understanding that this interchange is included in a package of other interchanges that York County is submitting to the State Infrastructure Bank for their consideration for possible funding.

Once the design work is initiated, SCDOT will host public meetings on the proposed project. I would suggest that we connect the concerned business leaders up with SCDOT's Chief Engineer for Project Delivery, Mr. Randy Young. Mr. Young will be able to provide regular updates and receive valuable input from the users of the deficient interchange directly. Note: Beth will connect Lash and LPL's designees with Mr. Young.

From Sec. Hitt – Sec. Hitt has a meeting set with William Taylor, who is with the Springs Company and associated with the Lash and LPL developments, to discuss status of the projects and specific immediate and long-term needs, as related to the interchange. His Communications staff is working on messaging and a PR plan associated with the increased traffic and safety impacts.

**DEW – Back to Work:**

The Back to Work Program was launched by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW) in collaboration with Transitions Homeless Recovery Center and the Main Street United Methodist Church. This program was created to provide individuals living in transitional housing, a homeless shelter in this instance, with the practical skills they need to find gainful employment and to help reintegrate them into the workforce.

Lasting five weeks, the program begins with workshops designed to identify individuals' barriers to employment and provide them with tools to overcome personal obstacles. The program's training includes career exploration, conflict resolution, transferable job skills, self-esteem building, and maintaining financial stability. Each component of the program is designed to effect immediate positive change. The program's goals are not only assisting participants with

practical skills and obtaining employment but teaching them how to sustain long-term employment.

The key to success for a Back to Work participant is the assignment of a job coach who mentors and holds the participant accountable throughout the program. The coaches provide intense case management, assist with job placement, and guide participants as they transition into the workforce. This process may continue for up to 90 days upon the individual's graduation from the program.

After graduation, participants attend a special hiring event with employers who have committed to interviewing Back to Work Program participants for their current job openings. Partnerships with Dress for Success Columbia and the Columbia Suit Project provide professional work attire for the graduates for interviews and once they are employed.

The first class of the Back to Work Program graduated 19 participants on December 11, 2015. As of February 2016, the program has successfully placed 16 of the 19 participants in gainful employment.

#### **Boards and Commissions – Minority Affairs:**

Katie and Beth met with Dr. Will Goins (CEO of the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois United Tribes of SC, Inc.), Ms. Lisa Collins (Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnetown), and Chief Louie Chavis (At-large member on the Commission for Minority Affairs with an expired term, Sanford appointee) to discuss his belief that our office has been “disingenuous...regarding wanting to ‘clean up’ the Commission for Minority Affairs.”

Recall, that our office referred Dr. Goins' complaints to the IG last year. The IG conducted their investigation and concluded the report in June of last year. We have had a staff member at each of the Commission meetings and have also replaced four out of nine board members. Finally, we replaced the Chair (after Dr. Goins alleged that the previous chair was unresponsive) in September 2015. We currently have one nominee going through the Senate confirmation process for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District vacancy on the Commission and are searching for an attorney to fill the vacant At-large seat.

It seems that Dr. Goins continues to be dissatisfied regardless of the amount of attention and scrutiny our office gives the agency.

#### **EPA – Safe Drinking Water: SEE ATTACHED**

Attached is a letter from Administrator Gina McCarthy to the Governor regarding safe drinking water following the recent events in Flint, Michigan. The EPA will be meeting with every state drinking water program in the country to ensure lead levels are being addressed, and Administrator McCarthy asks for the Governor's and DHEC's support and cooperation.

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