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Subject: "Victims Matter Luncheon" hosted by SCVAN (SC Victim Assistance Network)
Location: Brookland Baptist Church Conference Center; West Columbia, SC
When: 10/3/2016 12:00:00 PM - 1:30:00 PM

APPROVED BY: NH on 9/6

EVENT: "Victims Matter Luncheon" hosted by SCVAN (SC Victim Assistance Network)

DATE: October 4, 2016

TIME: 12:00-1:30 PM following the Silent Witness Ceremony on Statehouse grounds

LOCATION: Brookland Baptist Church Conference Center; West Columbia, SC

LOCATION SET-UP:

SCHEDULING CONTACT:

ONSITE CONTACT:

PRIMARY STAFF: Abby Scott

ADVANCE STAFF: Brian Symmes

GOVERNOR'S ROLE: The Governor is the headlining recipient to accept an award for her leadership against domestic violence. If she attends, then she would speak for 5-10 minutes: Thank the advocates, provide a short update on the DV Task Force, and announce the 2017 domestic violence initiative—Victims' Services Restructuring Package to consolidate crime victims agencies and programs under one agency (AG's Office).

PRESS:

PUBLIC:

ATTENDEES:

INTRODUCED BY:

LENGTH OF SPEAKING:

SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:

DESCRIPTION: "To recognize and honor Governor Nikki Haley, Attorney General Alan Wilson, news media, key legislators, and others for leading efforts to combat domestic violence and human trafficking and for vigorously upholding crime victim rights in South Carolina." Proceeds from the fundraiser luncheon (\$25/ticket) will go to SCVAN for direct victims services as well as training, advocacy, and coordination.

VICTIMS' SERVICES RESTRUCTURING PACKAGE:

- Today, I am proud to join victims' advocates from across the state to announce a Victims' Services Restructuring Package to house victims' services under one roof for the first time in state history.
- [Legislator(s)] will sponsor a legislative package that will move the State Office of Victims Assistance and the Crime Victims Ombudsman from the Department of Administration to the Attorney General's Office.

- In addition, I have issued an Executive Order to transition the administration of the Victims of Crime Act and Violence Against Women Act grants from the Department of Public Safety to the Attorney General's Office.
- These agencies and programs will join the Attorney General's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs to form an [Office of Victims' Services].
- But we're going to do more than that: We'll strengthen the office's oversight and audit authority over victims' services funding at the local level—this new level of transparency paired with the administration of our federal grants will allow us to develop a comprehensive strategy for channeling resources to every corner of our state.
- Restructuring will streamline services and empower coordination so that every victim and every victim advocate is lifted up.
- A statewide approach will give us eyes at the top of government, and we will see victims' services elevated to an unprecedented level—not just for domestic violence victims but for all crime victims.
- This has been a long time coming for South Carolina – report after report has recommended consolidation of victims programs: three times by the Legislative Audit Council (1999, 2007, 2009) and most recently by the Department of Administration and the Domestic Violence Task Force.
- I am excited to see an [Office of Victims' Services] come to life and see what Team South Carolina can really do.

STATISTICAL NOTES:

- SC is #1 in the nation for the rate of women killed by men and #6 in the nation for the rate of violent crime, 42% of which is domestic in nature.
- Approximately 27 states have a consolidated approach to victims' services: 8 states under the AG's Office; 6 states as a standalone Cabinet Agency; and 13 states with combined services in some form.

TALKING POINTS: