



June 28, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

As you may remember, we met back in October when you were in Manning, SC, after the devastation from the flooding last fall. At that time, I conveyed to you that my building company Brighton Builders, LLC hoped to build and donate two (or more) tiny homes to be used for the flood victims. It was our hope that a family could use the tiny homes while they got back on their feet and pass it on for use by the next family in need.

The support we received from our subcontractors, vendors and our local community was overwhelming. The home was completed in early December with the hope that a displaced family would be able to move in prior to the holidays. Unfortunately, that did not happen.

We reached out in as many directions as we knew and have remained diligent in our efforts. On several occasions we thought we were close to being able to deliver the home to a non-profit organization. It seems that as soon as we were close another roadblock was put in our way.

My staff and I have exhausted every avenue to find placement for the tiny home. We have offered to monitor the tiny home if an organization would just assist in finding families to utilize the home. A timeline of some of the events is attached.

Our goal was to help flood victims in need and we have worked diligently to do so. We facilitated three large box truckloads of supplies to the region to help support the needs to the communities affected all while building a Tiny Home to provide housing for a family or families.

It has been unfortunate to see this home sit empty for so many months while there are so many in need who would have been able to use it. It's also a disappointment to have not been able to bring this project to fruition for all those who have contributed their time, money and effort for this cause. We worked diligently with the South Carolina Disaster Recovery task forces to place this home with no success. Now that time has gone by, organizations and people have forgotten about the cause and not made this a priority. I find it hard to imagine a \$50,000 home can't be given to someone affected by the flood in South Carolina.

The VOAD list had 63 organization names on it and we contacted each one of them and only one stepped up to the plate. The one organization that did step up has NOT been allowed to

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place it in Richland County or the City Limits of Columbia. This seems contradictory to what we were expecting to happen when we built this home and goes against the flood relief efforts.

Anything you can do to address the above issues and help get this home placed for one or multiple families to use would be appreciated by me and my community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Ben Kennedy
Owner / President

TINY HOME DELIVERY TIMELINE

- 10-26-15 Visit to Manning, SC to introduce Tiny Homes to Governor Haley
Original intent was for tiny home to be delivered to Manning; however communication obstacles developed between Mayor's office and local Baptist Church
- 11-03-15 Info sent to Kevin Schwedo – SC Disaster Recovery Coordinator about tiny house donation and request for assistance in finding a family
- 11-11-15 Additional information sent to Kevin Schwedo regarding tiny home project
- 11-18-15 Contact from Rion Alvey SC Disaster Relief Team
- 12-02-15 Received call from Roy Kramer at Habitat CSC inquiring about tiny home; sent info
- 12-08-15 Roy Kramer at Habitat working with St. Bernard Project who has 9 houses needing remediation
- 12-17-15 Roy Kramer at Habitat; has military single mom with 4 children needing shelter
- 12-17-15 Contacted VA employer for military single mom to expedite/facilitate delivery of tiny home; later found out that she had found housing
- 12-21-15 Email sent by Brighton Builders to 63 contacts on SC VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) requesting assistance in finding an organization/family for the tiny home
- 12-28-15 Contact from Earl McLeod – Building Industry Association of Central South Carolina proposed display of tiny home at Home Show in January, accept applications, announce recipient in March; suggested use by homeless vets in the meantime. It was decided that this would not be the best or intended direction for delivery of the tiny home.
- 01-22-16 Follow up email sent by Brighton Builders to 63 contacts on SC VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) again requesting assistance in finding an organization/family for the tiny home
- 01-22-16 Sent follow up to Roy Kramer at Habitat CSC to see if he has been able to identify a family
- 01-25-16 Response from Michael King (Assistant Director at Richland County Emergency Services); offer to facilitate the tiny house donation by working with SC VOAD and United Way Partners through the Midlands Long Term Recovery Group
- 01-28-16 Contact from Patrick Beekman at Richland County Emergency Services to discuss application process for tiny home; hope was to have home awarded no later than February 18th
- 02-05-16 Follow up from Roy Kramer at Habitat; working through United Way, still hoping to find a family through the St. Bernard Project

- 02-15-16 Announcement by Richland County sent out to Midlands LTRG (146 contacts) for application to accept donation of tiny house
- 02-18-16 Update from Pat Beekman – applications being accepted until 02-26-16; selection committee to make determination of recipient
- 02-26-16 Application received to accept donation of tiny house
- 03-02-16 Applicant approved; waiting for information on recipient family & delivery
- 03-04-16 Contact from Douglas Edwards at Benedict Allen Community Development Corporation Applicant for organization to receive tiny house; has two families for candidates
- 03-14-16 Contact from Ray Stuhn (Pat Beekman’s office); Benedict Allen CDC hoping to finalize permitting issues
- 03-14-16 Email from Doug Edwards at Benedict Allen CDC outlining the challenges he is facing for the placement of the tiny home. The two local RV parks do not have accommodations for the tiny house and county building officials will not allow placement on one of Benedict Allen’s lot with hookup to utilities. They hope to continue their search for a suitable location.
- 03-21-16 Doug Edwards received confirmation that one of the mobile home parks will allow placement of the tiny house. Working on permits with the county.
- 03-28-16 Follow up from Ray Stuhn for update on status of move to mobile home park and selection of family.
- 03-31-16 Confirmation received from Richland County Permitting stating we will only be required to obtain a “set-up permit” to locate tiny house. We have tentatively scheduled to deliver tiny home on Monday, April 4th.
- 04-04-16 Richland County Permitting & Zoning states that tiny home is no longer approved to be in the county on a mobile home park due to zoning issues.
- 04-12-16 Follow up from Ray Stuhn; no progress per Doug Edwards
- 04-13-16 Per Doug Edwards, Mayor of Columbia not aware there was an issue with county. Thought it was a done deal. May end up putting tiny home in the city of Columbia.
- 04-19-16 Doug Edwards feels progress is being made, working through red tape for official “stamp of approval”
- 04-27-16 Ray Stuhn follow up; no progress per Doug Edwards
- 05-18-16 Per Doug Edwards, waiting for letter of authorization that involves: Permitting & Inspection, Community Development, Zoning & Ordinance through city. County will not reconsider.
- 06-20-16 Most recent update from Doug Edwards: “There has been no movement made on the part of the city, that I am aware of, in making any additional efforts to get the tiny house brought in.”

TINY HOME BUILT FOR SC FLOOD RELIEF EFFORT



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