



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



Raymond Buxton, II
Commissioner

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June 22, 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley:

As the Executive Director of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, I want to thank you for the exemplary leadership that you have provided to bring about healing in South Carolina after the tragic incident at Emanuel AME Church. I have been touched by your actions and sensitivity as it relates to this matter, and truly, as you have stated: "The heart and soul of South Carolina has been broken".

Despite that brokenness and in light of your and others' continued leadership related to healing, I know that South Carolina, through an altruistic love, will overcome this terrible pain. In an effort to assist you and all South Carolinians in the healing process I want to make you aware that this agency has a resource tool available to foster the process of promoting healing, harmony and respect. The Human Affairs Commission enforces laws preventing discrimination in the areas of equal employment, fair housing, and the right to equal enjoyment and privileges to public accommodations. In addition, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission as mandated by the General Assembly is allowed to assist in creating Community Relations Councils in our State to encourage open conversation and dialogue and to create a better understanding among our diverse population of people. Although a Community Relations Council may not necessarily prevent an incident like the one in Charleston, a Community Relations Council *can* work quickly and discreetly to resolve disputes and to promote positive and harmonious relationships, thereby preventing further violence. The Councils allow a formal structure to always be in place in a community to deal with these matters.

Please know that the SC Human Affairs Commission can be used as a resource to work collaboratively with others to bring about healing, good will and the prevention of hatred in our communities. We are willing to help form a Community Relations Council in Charleston County if its citizens believe that this will be a helpful tool to promote harmony among people of diverse backgrounds.

Our mission is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation.

My staff and I are available to assist you, your staff, and cabinet agencies such as the SC Law Enforcement Division and the Department of Public Safety as well as the citizens and elected leaders of Charleston County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Buxton, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raymond Buxton, II
Agency Director

C: Leroy Smith, Director of Public Safety
Mark Keels, Chief of SLED
Charleston County Legislative Delegation
Joseph Riley, Mayor of Charleston
John A. Oakland, Chairman