

INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE*

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Commerce – Michelin:

Michelin notified our office today that it will suspend operations at its Earthmover plant in Anderson due to low demand of the tires. There will be no layoffs and all employees will be offered jobs at other Michelin plants in Anderson or Lexington. Note: The Governor attended the grand opening of the Anderson plant four years ago.

PRT – Atlantic Beach:

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION Director Duane Parrish had a very successful meeting with Atlantic Beach Mayor Jake Evans last week and confirmed that **the town agreed to all of PRT's conditions, including changing the name of Bikefest to the Black Pearl Family Festival.** The City of Myrtle Beach and Brad Dean are extremely happy of these developments. Director Parrish plans to hire one part-time employee to assist with the Atlantic Beach improvements, which include:

- Promoting a Black Pearl History Symposium in February 2016.
- Changing and expanding Black Pearl Family Festival during Memorial Day Weekend 2016, to include more family friendly events.
- Promoting 50th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner in June 2016.
- Identifying and acquiring resources to develop beach walkways over the dunes and install signage/waysides to share the story of the Black Pearl for year-round tourism.
- Helping collaborate with the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor to hopefully make the town one of the state's Coastal Heritage Centers.

Mayor Evans would like to make a public announcement of this partnership and these changes following the November 2015 elections. They have asked for the Governor's participation, and our staff is continuing to look into options for her involvement.

Public Service Commission – SCE&G:

Today, the PSC approved a rate increase for SCE&G to revise rates by \$69,648,000. However, ORS reduced this amount by \$5,122,719 for a net increase of \$64,525,281. **For residential customers, their bills will increase 2.59%.** As an example, a homeowner using 1,000 kWh per month will now be paying \$3.88 more per month, totaling \$149.65 of which 15% (\$23.24) is attributable to the BLRA (Base Load Review Act), which is the revised statutory rate structure.

Domestic Violence Task Force:

At a public hearing last week, only one survivor showed to speak to Director Stirling's group. We heard extremely compelling testimony from Lourdes Altman for more than two hours – she is a young mother in Aiken County who is claiming emotional and physical abuse by her recent-ex-husband and has lost full custody to two young girls under the age of five to him. The panel

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asked her questions, and Sara Barber (SCCADVASA) was on hand to act as her advocate. She would like to appeal her case, but because she makes \$25,000 a year, she does not qualify for free legal services; and therefore, our office asked the Nelson Mullins pro bono program to see if one of its attorneys would like to take the case. Yesterday, the following message was sent to more than 200 Nelson Mullins attorneys:

The firm's Pro Bono Program was recently contacted by a member of the Governor's Domestic Violence Task Force seeking a pro bono lawyer to represent the victim wife in a divorce/custody/support case growing out of Barnwell County Family Court.

While she had funds to hire a lawyer for the three-day trial, she cannot afford counsel for the appeal. Her income is \$25,980 per year, just over the federal poverty guideline ceiling, so South Carolina Legal Services cannot take her case.

A conflict search has been done and is clear. This is the kind of case that would qualify for approved pro bono. The final decree was entered on September 18, 2015.

If you are interested, let me know and I'll send you a copy of the final decree. This CDV victim needs a hero in her corner.... Can she find that person at Nelson Mullins? Thank you for considering.

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