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Date: 11/10/2016 1:11:34 PM
Subject: FW: draft background for press release - RCRC removal

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From: Schimsa, Rebecca
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Godfrey, Rob
Cc: Patel, Swati; Taylor, Richele
Subject: draft background for press release - RCRC removal

Today, Governor Haley issued Executive Order 2016-45, setting forth charges against members of the Richland County Recreation Commission and scheduling a public hearing date for November 30, 2016. At the hearing, members will have an opportunity to offer testimony or submit additional evidence in response to the charges. The Governor will appoint a three-person panel to preside over the hearing and will name the members of the panel at a later date.

The charges brought against members of the Richland County Recreation Commission include neglect of duty, incompetency, misfeasance, and malfeasance for such actions as failing to review complaints of nepotism, harassment, retaliation, and intimidation as well as matters related to compensation of employees.

State law authorizes the Governor to remove county or state officers for certain types of misconduct or wrongful behavior. After reviewing information and documentation sent by the Commission as well as members of the General Assembly (Richland County Legislative Delegation) sent in October, the Governor has found that sufficient evidence exists to move forward with the removal process, which is laid out in statute. The statute requires that the Governor notify the members of the charges and then give the members an opportunity with reasonable notice to be heard on the charges. After the hearing, the Governor will make a final decision as to whether the members should be removed from office.