

**From:** Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>  
**To:** Adams, Marcia Marcia.Adams@admin.sc.gov  
**Date:** 7/23/2015 4:32:47 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Permit question

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Thank you. Very helpful.  
Katherine

On Jul 23, 2015, at 4:28 PM, Adams, Marcia <Marcia.Adams@admin.sc.gov> wrote:

FYI – Response from Senator Martin

Marcia S. Adams  
*Executive Director*

**The South Carolina  
Department of Administration**

1200 Senate Street, Suite 460, Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 734-9260 | (803) 734-9002 fax

*Note: Act 121 of 2014 (SC Restructuring Act of 2014) abolished the Budget and Control Board. Effective July 1, 2015, the Department of Administration has been established. Please update your contact information.*

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**From:** Sen. Shane Martin [mailto:shane@senatormartin.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 4:15 PM  
**To:** Adams, Marcia  
**Subject:** RE: Permit question

Dear Marcia,

Thanks very much for this information. I hope that we never again have this sort of decision to make, but I'm sure that all will use the lessons learned to prevent a similar outcome. I hope you have a great weekend!

Shane

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**From:** Adams, Marcia [mailto:Marcia.Adams@admin.sc.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 2:59 PM  
**To:** Sen. Shane Martin  
**Subject:** RE: Permit question

Senator Martin,

The State House grounds are a public forum for purposes of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. See, *Edwards v. South Carolina*, 372 U.S. 229 (1963). The United States Supreme Court has concluded that in a traditional public forum, such as the State House grounds, the rights of the state to limit expressive activity are sharply circumscribed. Limitations on the First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly in a public forum must be content neutral and must provide ample channels for those exercising their First Amendment rights. *Perry Education Assn. v. Perry Local Educators Assn.*, 460 U.S. 37 (1983).

The Division of General Services frequently receives reservation requests from individuals and/or groups to use the State House grounds to exercise their First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly. However, it must be noted that an individual or group may gather on the State House grounds to exercise their First Amendment rights without submitting a reservation request or prior notification to the Division of General Services or the Bureau of Protective Services (BPS). The reservation process is beneficial because it provides notice to the state of the potential need for additional public safety and other services. Reservation requests are scheduled and spacing designated on a first-come, first-served basis. BPS addresses public safety concerns with the requestor. All persons and/or groups that access the State House grounds must abide by all applicable state laws. If any laws are broken, then such violations are addressed by BPS.

The Division of General Services consulted with BPS regarding the July 18<sup>th</sup> events. The groups requesting to reserve space to express their First Amendment rights were scheduled at different locations on the State House grounds. Another group was denied a reservation following review by BPS due to public safety concerns.

As it relates to the residency of the two organizations, the addresses given on the reservation request forms indicate the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan were from Pelham, NC and the Black Educators for Justice were from Jacksonville, FL.

Thank you,  
Marcia

Marcia S. Adams  
*Executive Director*

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**From:** Sen. Shane Martin [<mailto:shane@senatormartin.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2015 4:25 PM  
**To:** Adams, Marcia  
**Cc:** 'Pat Hamby'  
**Subject:** Permit question

Dear Marcia Adams,

I have received several constituent emails concerning the events this weekend in Columbia. Please tell me why the Board allowed the two hate groups, the KKK and the Black Panthers, to demonstrate at the Statehouse nearly simultaneously. Also, can you confirm that both groups are from out of state? The Board surely understood the potential ramifications, which indeed came to fruition. I am disturbed by what occurred at our Statehouse, and I would like to know why the Board allowed the situation to exist at all.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards,

Shane