



Representative Wendell G. Gilliard

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

District No. 111- Charleston County

Committee: Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

July 18, 2016

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

Dear Governor Haley:

On Friday, July 15, 2016, I had the distinct pleasure of holding a joint press conference with Representative Chip Limehouse and others to inform citizens that we have and will continue working together to come up with ideas that would help improve race relations in South Carolina. It was truly a positive session and I am proud that party lines can be crossed to tackle this most important issue head on.

First, we will be calling for a day of prayer that will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at Marion Square in historic Charleston, not far from Mother Emanuel AME Church. I would like to invite you to join us for this day of prayer and to declare Thursday, July 28, 2016 to be a day of prayer for the officers and young black men that lost their lives unjustly in South Carolina and abroad. This event will include the clergy from a host of local areas of worship so that we can get to know each other better in the spirit of peace and love. Subsequently, we will call for a meeting with the heads of our law enforcement agencies as well as the leaders of all civil rights organizations to develop effective and sustainable ideas to foster improved relationships among citizens and law officers. This will then lead us to the 17th Annual Police Community Unity Day on August 27, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. I am proud to host this every summer along with Chief Greg Mullen and the City of Charleston Police Department.

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THE HONORABLE NIKKI R. HALEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Next, we will call for a gathering of local and state government officials to brainstorm solutions pertaining but not limited to education, affordable housing, and ways to reduce mass incarceration of young men in tandem with job opportunities for those upon release from jail. It is my hope that local mayors will attend so that their valuable input can be recognized. Fourthly, we will convene an assembly of representatives from some of the local major companies we helped acquire that benefit from our regions diverse and highly qualified workforce. Our request would be that each business develop or strengthen a summer employment program for area young people which would lead to highly skilled jobs upon graduation for those not wishing to enroll in secondary education. I have already approached a number of local corporations with this idea and it is my hope that it will come to fruition.

In closing, I want you, the highest elected official in our state to know that it will truly be a great day in South Carolina when we see the results of our combined fruitful labor to improve the relationships between all races in conjunction with those sworn to protect and serve. It is imperative that those upset or hurting as a result of an incident of racial injustice understand that their local leaders stand with and uphold them in their time of need. Now is the time that anger isn't manifested but that it is turned into positive, Godly actions! I look forward to your response and it is my sincere hope that we can count on your office to join us in this effort.

Sincerely,

Wendell G. Gilliard

Wendell G. Gilliard
South Carolina House of Representatives
District 111

WGG/by