



THE SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of ADMINISTRATION

Nikki R. Haley, Governor
Marcia S. Adams, Executive Director

CRIME VICTIMS' OMBUDSMAN
Veronica Swain Kunz, Director
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February 17, 2016

Governor Nikki R. Haley
Columbia, South Carolina

Re: Nomination for Order of the Palmetto: Barbara Grissom

Dear Governor Haley:

Please allow this letter to serve as my enthusiastic recommendation of Barbara Grissom to receive the honor of being awarded South Carolina's Order of the Palmetto.

Barbara is preparing to retire after having served South Carolina's victims of crime for twenty-seven years at the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Under her leadership, Barbara has advanced services to crime victims through the following innovative initiatives:

- Implemented the Impact of Crime Program in prisons to enable offenders to benefit from this innovative cognitive behavior modification program as the result of hearing from those they have harmed;
- Established an "Apology Letter Program" for inmates and victims to exchange expressions of remorse and forgiveness.
- Secured confidentiality for victims' personal identifying information in Department of Corrections' records;
- Partnered with Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands to implement curriculum-based programs in each prison to help the inmate population who experienced domestic or sexual violence;
- Designed and managed the victim notification program for the Department of Corrections;
- Secured \$1.2 million in grant funding to establish the statewide automatic victim information and notification system (SAVIN), establishing a statewide infrastructure and standardized victim notification across the state;

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- Served as Chair for the SC Victim Services Coordinating Council and for the first Southern States Correctional Association's Victims Committee. She was also appointed to the SC Crime Victims' Advisory Board by Governor Jim Hodges, and served on the Board of Standards and Certification for Victim Assistance and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network.

In recognition of her numerous achievements and personal leadership to advance the rights of and services to South Carolina's victims of crime, I heartily endorse Barbara Grissom to receive the Order of the Palmetto.

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of further service.

Very truly yours,

Veronica Swain Kunz
Director
Crime Victims' Ombudsman

