



# Representative Wendell G. Gilliard

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

District No. 111- Charleston County

Committee: Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs

January 22, 2016

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: State Representative Wendell Gilliard**

CHARLESTON, South Carolina

Press Release Issued by State Representative Wendell Gilliard concerning "Tent City".

**State Representative Wendell Gilliard calls on Mayor John Tecklenburg and Mayor Keith Summey to open all available public housing units to occupants of Charleston's and North Charleston's "Tent City" in light of the impending winter storm.**

Today, January 22, 2016, South Carolina State Representative Wendell Gilliard of District 111 calls on Mayor John Tecklenburg and Mayor Keith Summey to release the available empty units of public housing controlled by each respective city to residents of "Tent City" who have been living under and near the Ravenel Bridge and overpasses in Charleston and near N. Charleston's city hall in the recent months in light of the impending winter storm hitting the Lowcountry this weekend. State Representative Wendell Gilliard is asking Mayor Tecklenburg and Mayor Summey along with state, county and local government to consider utilizing the empty facility at the old Naval Base as an immediate and/or long term solution to help resolve homelessness in Charleston County.

It is considered that there are a number of available units in public housing which are unoccupied and could serve as proper shelter to those who are living in the outdoor elements and are set to endure this weekend's treacherous conditions. Upwards of over 100 people currently occupy space underneath the Ravenel Bridge and overpasses in Charleston along with outdoor spaces near North Charleston's city hall. Numerous weather reports currently show freezing rain and thunderstorms throughout the weekend with low temperatures reaching around 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

State Representative Wendell Gilliard stated, "The conditions hitting the Lowcountry this weekend will be severe and it is deplorable to think we would allow people to weather the storm in makeshift houses and tents in the outdoors while public housing units remain empty and available. Each Mayor needs to

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open all available housing units immediately and help transfer people living in tents outside to safer and warm conditions inside these proper dwellings."

Next week Representative Gilliard plans on introducing a Resolution in the State House to encourage local governments across the state to open all public housing to those in need.

*Wendell G. Gilliard*

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