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November 1, 2016

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

Dear Governor Haley:

I am writing this letter to you to praise several civil servants. This letter is long overdue, but I needed the time to find the right words to express my opinion.

We have had the pleasure of coming to know the Forest Acres Police Department ("FAPD") in Columbia, SC.

Sadly, our experience was a result of the murder of our family member, Gregory Alia, an Officer with the FAPD, End of Watch September 30, 2015.

As one door closes, another opens. As a result of this tragedy, we, too have become part of the FAPD Family. Chief Gene Sealy has opened his arms, his heart, and his doors to our family. Another officer, Sgt. Lori Tumlin, has embraced our family with the love and support of the FAPD. There are many other caring members of this department, all of whom have shown tremendous grace under pressure.

It has been a difficult year for all of us, as members of law enforcement have come under attack. Yet, the FAPD continues to work with community members, reaching out and offering peaceful solutions to everyone. Members of the FAPD joined our Family earlier this year at the Police Memorial held in Washington, DC in May. They continue to shine the light from their hearts to our family, and to members of the community. The doors to the FAPD are always open to all and there is always a warm welcome.

We are so honored to be part of this law enforcement Family, and we are blessed to have Chief Sealy and Officer Tumlin in our lives.

As we head into the holiday season, we wish peace and love for you and your Family.

Respectfully,

*Barbara Cassara*

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*Blue Lives Matter*