



# RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Administrator

November 23, 2016

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

Re: Richland County Recreation Commission Management Audit

Dear Governor Haley:

On June 2, 2016, Richland County Council took action directing a management audit of the Richland County Recreation Commission (Commission) as a result of concerns about fiscal management practices. As you know, Richland County provides 12.8 mills to the Commission, annually. County Council voted, in light of the noted concerns, to “freeze” funds above the mandatory five mills until such time as the Commission provides written documentation to County Council that an independent review confirms that funds provided by County Council are being utilized solely for the benefit of promoting recreational opportunities for the citizens of Richland County.

Following a competitive solicitation process, Richland County has awarded the management audit to Matrix Consulting Group (MCG), founded in 2002 and headquartered in Mountain View, CA. MCG principals and senior staff are governmental analysts with an average applied experience of 30 years who currently conduct management studies and provide financial services solely to local governments. The consultancy has conducted over 100 studies of parks and recreation operations, nationwide.

Areas to be reviewed include all functions of the organization including management and personnel, objectives and strategy, structure, organizational planning, the budgeting process, human and financial resources management, decision making, marketing, equipment and operations, and management operations systems.

In order for administration to assist the Commission through the planned management audit period and to determine budgetary contingencies, we have requested financial information from Ms. Tara Dickerson, Richland County Recreation Commission Chief of Staff. Ms. Dickerson has



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cooperatively been working with administration to both provide necessary documents and move the audit process forward in a timely manner. Based on the estimated timeline provided by Ms. Dickerson, Richland County tax funds are expected to be depleted by March 2017. Administration will evaluate the financial information provided by the Commission and present it to Richland County Council for review during the next council meeting scheduled for December 6, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Please be assured that the final results of the RCRC Management Audit will be forwarded to you and the elected Richland County Legislative Delegation. Richland County will issue a press release regarding the audit on Monday, November 28, 2016. A hard copy of this correspondence will be mailed via postal service.

Please feel free to contact the County's Director of Community and Government Services Jamelle Ellis at 803.576.2050 who has been assigned oversight responsibility for the audit or me with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

In the Spirit of Excellence,

Gerald Seals  
County (interim) Administrator

cc: Richland County Council  
Tara Dickerson, Richland County Recreation Commission Chief of Staff  
Jamelle Ellis, Director of Community and Government Services  
Kevin Bronson, Assistant County Administrator  
Brandon Madden, Assistant to the County Administrator