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**Subject:** Out of the Darkness Community Walk Opening Ceremony  
**Location:** Riverfront Park, 3 Rivers Greenway, Columbia, S.C.  
**When:** 10/26/2014 2:00:00 PM - 2:45:00 PM

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**Advance:** Brandon Landrum  
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**Approved By:** NH and Tim on 9/9. This ask was from John Magill and NH said he never asks for anything.

**EVENT:** Out of the Darkness Community Walk Opening Ceremony

**DATE:** Sunday, October 26, 2014

**TIME:** 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Riverfront Park, 3 Rivers Greenway, Columbia, S.C.

**LOCATION SET-UP:** on the stage in the field at Riverfront Park, microphone

**ATTIRE:** Blue

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:**

John Denny  
SC National Guard  
803-543-6049

**SCHEDULING CONTACT:**

Helen Pridgen, MSW, LMSW  
Co-Chair of the Out of the Darkness Community Walk  
South Carolina Area Director  
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[www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

**PRIMARY STAFF:** Katherine Veldran

**ADVANCE STAFF:** Zach Pippin

**PURPOSE:** Gov. Haley will give remarks at the Out of the Darkness Community Walk Opening Ceremony.

**PRESS:** Yes.

**PUBLIC:** Yes.

**INVITED BY:** John Magill, State Director of Mental Health

**INTRODUCED BY:** John Magill, State Director of Mental Health

**LENGTH OF SPEAKING:** brief remarks.

**SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:**

2:00-2:03 PM	Presentation of Colors
2:03-2:07 PM	AFSP VP Mike Lamma
2:07-2:10 PM	John Magill introduces Governor Haley
2:10-2:13 PM	The Honorable Nikki Haley
2:13-2:17 PM	Dr. Meera Narasimhan (importance of research)
2:17-2:23 PM	Awards and Recognition of Color Beads
2:23-2:30 PM	Ribbon Cutting – Speakers will participate with the children
2:30 PM	Walk begins
2:30 PM	NH departs

**ATTENDEES:** Expecting 700 walkers.

**Richland County Background:**

- Unemployment rate has decreased by 2% -- from 8.8% to 6.8%
- 9 project announcements, totaling \$294 million in capital investments and 1,524 jobs
- 21 elementary schools in Richland 1 get fully funded reading coaches; 8 elementary schools in Richland 1 get a 50% state-funded reading coach.
- 11 elementary schools in Richland 2 get fully funded reading coaches; 11 elementary schools in Richland 2 get a 50% state-funded reading coach.
- \$1,142,470 in technology allocations for Richland 1 in FY 2014-15 budget; \$905,322 in technology allocations for Richland 2 in FY 2014-15 budget
- Roughly \$1.4 million more for Richland 1 in FY 14-15 than in FY 13-14 due to changes in EFA funding formula; roughly \$1.3 million for Richland 2 in FY 14-15 than in FY 13-14 due to changes in EFA formula.

**BACKGROUND:** The Governor will briefly address the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Community Walk. The Foundation's goal is to reduce annual suicide rate by 20% by 2025. An estimated 39,500 Americans commit suicide every year.

**Note:** During the Governor's 1<sup>st</sup> term, the Department of Mental Health's budget has increased by 41%. According to the latest data published by the CDC in 2012, South Carolina's suicide rate is 13.65 per 100,000 people, which is slightly above the national average of 12.5 per 100,000 people. Western states in particular have extremely high suicide rates.

**Suggested Talking Points**

**Suicide Prevention**

- Thank you for the warm introduction, Director Magill.
- The Department of Mental Health is lucky to have such a strong leader and dedicated advocate.
- I am proud to be here supporting the Out of the Darkness Community Walk benefitting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

- The Foundation has set an admirable goal to reduce suicide by 20 percent by 2025 and we're here today because we want to help you achieve that goal.
- Today's Out of the Darkness Walk is one of more than 360 similar walks all across the country that will raise approximately \$12 million for suicide prevention.
- Suicide affects too many families in South Carolina and across the country. It is estimated that a person dies by suicide in the United States every 13 minutes. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among 18-65 year olds and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among teens and young adults.
- That's why events like this are so important – they raise money and awareness and they help de-stigmatize mental illness.
- Unfortunately there are stigmas attached to mental health issues and we need to work together to break those down.
- Early recognition and treatment of mental disorders is the most effective way to prevent suicides.
- We know that there is work to be done and it's a team effort – from private sector financial support, to local community organizations, to state government. We all have a role to play in helping prevent suicide.
- That's why, during my administration, the Department of Mental Health's budget has increased by 41%. I am committed to working with Director Magill and the Department of Mental Health as well as DAODAS and the Department of Health and Human Services to help mental health patients get the care they need and prevent suicide.
- Thank you to everyone who made this event possible and thank you for all of the walkers.

### **Miscellaneous Haley Administration Highlights**

- On January 27 of this year, I signed the Government Restructuring Act of 2014 (S.22). It is the most comprehensive government restructuring in over 20 years - streamlining government processes by abolishing the outdated, five-member Budget & Control Board and creating the Department of Administration, which is responsible for executive and administrative functions.
- On February 11 of this year, I signed S.308, The Concealed Carry Reform Bill. This is just another example of how my administration is dedicated to upholding citizens' 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights here in South Carolina. The bill allows for responsible South Carolinians to carry their firearms into restaurants that serve alcohol, but doesn't allow them to consume alcohol. The bill also allows owners of these establishments to ban individuals from carrying firearms.
- South Carolina's Department of Social Services implemented a welfare-to-work program that has found jobs for over 20,000 welfare recipients (24,859) with 93 percent not returning to welfare at least three months following exit and more than 78 percent not returning for at least two years. (Figures accurate as of July 24, 2014)
- In 2012, we spearheaded a tax reform effort for individuals and businesses and the General Assembly passed a small business income tax reform package that will decrease income taxes for three consecutive years. When the package is in full effect in tax year 2014, the cumulative tax relief to small businesses will be \$63 million (and growing as small business income grows).
- In June 2011, I signed a tort reform law, allowing South Carolina to recruit and expand businesses by protecting them from frivolous lawsuits.
- We have focused on job training and putting workforce ready communities in every county (with Clarendon County becoming SC's 1<sup>st</sup>, McCormick County becoming the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Colleton County the

- 3<sup>rd</sup>, and recently Saluda County was named the 4<sup>th</sup> in the state).
- We have one of the lowest unionization rates in the country. (3.7%, the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest state in the country)
- We made transparency in government a major priority of my administration, including fighting for and signing into law the state's first roll call voting bill.
- We established the South Carolina Commission on Ethics Reform by Executive Order in 2012 to recommend changes that would expand, strengthen, and clarify the state's Ethics Act, which has not been updated in over twenty years. A bill that includes many of the recommendations regarding income disclosures, oversight, and conflicts of recently stalled in the South Carolina Senate, but remains a top legislative priority of my administration.
- By Executive Order, I established a Regulatory Review Task Force in February of 2013, which studied thousands of regulations promulgated by 22 state agencies to determine how the regulatory environment in SC can be streamlined to help small businesses succeed. The goal is to reduce government involvement in business and professional activities that stifle entrepreneurship, small business creation, and economic growth.
- Transportation spending authority has been a priority throughout my administration, which is why I signed into law a \$1 billion infrastructure bill without raising taxes in June of 2013 – the largest investment in roads and bridges in 25 years.
- In 2012, I signed a Charter School Bill that enhances the state's existing charter system by allowing public or independent institutions of higher learning to sponsor a charter school, permitting applicants to seek to form a single gender charter school, and enabling charter school students to participate in extracurricular activities.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Richland County: 1524 jobs announced; \$294 million capital investment announced.

Announced Date	Company Name	Objective	Product or Service	Announced Investment	Announced Jobs
2014-09-17	The Ritedose Corporation (TRC)	Expansion	Blow Fill Seal (pharmaceutical)	\$110,000,000	65
2014-06-18	RhythmLink International LLC	Expansion	Medical Device Packaging	\$1,400,000	50
2013-09-26	Dayton-Rogers Manufacturing, Co.	New	Stamping and Fabrication	\$11,000,000	134
2013-09-03	2AM Group, LLC - Blythewood	New	Assembly operation	\$500,000	100
2013-03-28	Constantia Hueck Foils, LLC	Expansion	Foils and Films for Food and Pharmaceuticals	\$12,000,000	15
2012-11-20	JTEKT Automotive South Carolina	Expansion	Automotive Steering Systems	\$130,000,000	175
2012-09-25	McEntire Produce, Inc.	Expansion	Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	\$5,000,000	85
2012-05-22	WNS North America Inc.	New	Customer care center	\$4,250,000	750

2011-10-31	Sensor Electronic Technology, Inc.	Expansion	LED Lights	\$20,000,000	150
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Between January 2011 and September 2014, the unemployment rate in Richland County has decreased by 2 percentage points from 8.8 percent to 6.8 percent. There are now 7,991 more people employed in the county and 3,409 fewer people unemployed.

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

		Adoption of the Conference Report 1/21/14 S.22	3rd Reading 2/27/2014 H.3945	3rd Reading 3/13/13 - Failed S.53	Reference notes below. S. 266	H.3541
	<b>SENATE - Richland County</b>	<b>DOA</b>	<b>Ethics</b>	<b>Sup. of Edu</b>	<b>ABF</b>	<b>Ad. General</b>
R	John Courson	Y	Y	Y		Y
D	Darrell Jackson	Y	EA	N		Y
D	Joel Lourie	Y	EA	Y		NV
D	John Scott	Y	Y	N		Y
D	Thomas McElveen	Y	Y	Y		Y

		Adoption of the Conference Report 1/21/14 S.22	Passage of the bill 4/30/13 H.3945		Adopt Resolution 4/9/13 H. 3518	Adopt Resolution 3/20/13 H.3541
	<b>HOUSE - Richland County</b>	<b>DOA</b>	<b>Ethics</b>	<b>Sup. of Edu</b>	<b>ABF</b>	<b>Ad. General</b>
D	Jimmy Bales	Y	Y		Y	Y
R	Nathan Ballentine	Y	Y		Y	EA
D	Beth Bernstein	Y	Y		Y	Y
D	MaryGail Douglas	Y	Y		Y	Y
R	Kirkman Finlay, III	NV	Y		Y	Y
R	Christopher R. Hart	Y	Y		NV	Y
D	Leon Howard	Y	Y		NV	Y
R	Joseph A. McEachern	Y	Y		Y	Y
D	Mia S. McLeod	Y	Y		Y	Y
D	Joseph H. Neal	EA	Y		N	NV
D	J. Todd Rutherford	Y	Y		N	Y
D	James E. Smith, Jr.	Y	Y		Y	Y

**Notes:**

**ABF:** S.266 - On the Senate calendar. Gregory - has fought multiple times. Leatherman continues to fight against. Leatherman's name is on the bill.

**Ethics:** Sen: Bright and Bryant are the 2 Senators that voted against Ethics - 3rd Reading.

House: Bedingfield, Chumley, Delleney, Felder, Moss, Norman, Pitts - voted against the passage of Ethics because it was not what passed out of Judiciary.

Bannister amended on 3rd with a strike and insert of new language which did not include independent investigations.

**Sup. of Edu:** Leatherman and O'Dell voted against. Matthews voted present. Sheheen, Lourie and McElveen voted for it.

**PRESS RELEASE:****For Immediate Release**

October 20, 2014

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**WALKERS TAKE TO THE STREETS TO PREVENT SUICIDE – Governor Haley Kicks off 2014 Walk  
Hundreds of Walks Being Held Nationwide Through December 2014**

(Columbia, S.C.) – Governor Nikki Haley will speak to the nearly 1000 people from throughout the Midlands who are expected to participate in the upcoming Columbia Out of the Darkness Community Walk on October 26, 2014. The fundraising walk supports the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](http://www.afsp.org) (AFSP, [afsp.org](http://afsp.org)) by helping to support local and national suicide prevention and awareness programs to reduce the annual rate of suicide by 20 percent by 2025.

The Columbia Out of the Darkness Walk is one of more than 360 Out of the Darkness Community Walks ([www.outofthedarkness.org](http://www.outofthedarkness.org)) being held this fall nationwide. The walks are expected to unite more than 100,000 walkers nationally and raise more than \$12 million for suicide prevention efforts.

"Much more needs to be done to prevent suicide. Yet, suicide and the underlying mental disorders that can sometimes lead to suicide continue to be surrounded by misinformation and stigma," said Erika Jensen, Walk Co-Chair. "This walk raises awareness about depression and suicide, raises needed funds for research and local prevention programs, and provides support to those who have struggled themselves or have lost a loved one by suicide. Survivors often find comfort in these healing steps.

The Columbia community walk will begin at the Columbia Riverfront Park at 2:00 pm and end at 4:30. The entrance to Columbia Riverfront Park is located at the corner of Huger Street and Laurel Street.

Speakers will include the Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor of South Carolina, Michael F. Lamma, AFSP Vice-President of Development and Field Management, John H. Magill, State Director of the SC Department of Mental Health, and Dr. Meera Narasimhan, Associate Provost for Health Sciences at USC. Walkers may register at [www.afsp.donordrive.com](http://www.afsp.donordrive.com).

According to AFSP, a person dies by suicide every 13.3 minutes, claiming more than 39,500 lives each year. It is estimated that an attempt is made every minutes, with close to one million people attempting suicide annually.

"Despite the troubling statistics, an important goal of the walk is to stress that suicide can be prevented. The walk is also a call to action that more must be done to prevent suicide, nationally and in communities across the country," said Robert Gebbia, executive director for the foundation.

"We know that the best way to prevent suicide is through the early recognition and treatment of the mental disorders that can contribute to suicide. Unfortunately, stigma about disorders such as depression, bipolar illness, and alcohol and substance abuse, keeps people from getting the treatment they need. The community walks are about eliminating that stigma. It's about bringing hope to those who have been affected by suicide," he continued.

Local sponsors for the Columbia Out of the Darkness Community Walk include Three Rivers Behavioral Health, Mental Health America of SC, BB&T, Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, Palmetto Health Behavioral Care, Shine Hair Color & Design Studio, The State Newspaper, AARP, Ellison Kibler & Associates, SC Bar – *Lawyers Helping Lawyers*, ETV Radio, ARC Document Solutions, Favor Midlands, Mid Carolina Internal Medicine, NAMI Mid Carolina, Nancy Dunbar, NASH FM 98.5, Palmetto Counseling Associates, NAMI South Carolina, Larry Nichols, Sign it Quick, South Carolina Nurses Association, Colonial Life, Michael's Café & Catering, and Starbuck's on Gervais.

**About the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:**

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy as well as to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide. For more information please visit [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org) . For information about the AFSP SC Chapter, please visit <https://www.afsp.org/local-chapters/find-your-local-chapter/afsp-south-carolina>.

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