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July 11, 2016

Richland County Recreation Commission Board of Commissioners
c/o Commissioner J. Marie Green, Chair
7473 Parklane Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

RE: Richland County Recreation Commission

Dear Commissioners:

We, the undersigned members of the Richland County Legislative Delegation, are extremely disturbed by what has been happening at the Recreation Commission in recent months. While several media outlets have been reporting about the various allegations against the Director James Brown III, his son James Brown, and about the Commission, we need clarification from you, the Board, with respect to the following:

1. Please verify whether James Brown, III, has taken a voluntary leave of absence? If so, what does this mean? For how long? Will he be able to return at-will? Is he receiving all of the same benefits as if he was working?
2. With respect to the numerous civil lawsuits that have been filed against James Brown, III, and the Commission, are all the claims being handled through the Insurance Reserve Fund? Is the Recreation Commission incurring additional expenses? Have any of you, the Commissioners, retained private counsel and who is paying that cost?
3. In light of the arrest of James A. Brown on multiple drug trafficking charges and possession offenses, including crimes allegedly committed near a school, what is his status at the Commission? Has he been suspended or terminated? If so, when?
4. What is the Commission policy on nepotism? If there is no policy against nepotism, particularly within employment reporting relationships, why?

In general, you, as Board Commissioners, have a fiduciary duty to the citizens of Richland County to ensure that the Commission is run smoothly for the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Richland County. That duty includes the responsibility to ensure the person you hire as the Director does not create a hostile working environment for the employees of the Commission and that the allegations of sexual harassment, drug trafficking and public corruption are properly handled by the Board. While these matters are pending in civil courts and a criminal investigation, we believe the Director's self-imposed "leave of absence" does not discharge that duty and only continues to erode public confidence in the agency for which you are responsible.

Ultimately, we are concerned for the employees, who may be working in an environment of intimidation and harassment, and for the citizens of Richland County who use these facilities, particularly children and the elderly. It is of vital importance that we restore the public's trust and confidence in the Commission and the Board Commissioners who have been vested with this authority.

The next few months will be even more challenging for the Board, the employees, and all parties associated with the Commission. As such, we are counting on you, the Board, to rise to this challenge. We respectfully request that you respond to this letter, item by item in public, at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on July 18, in which many of us will be in attendance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. R. [unclear]", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.