



# COLUMBIACHAMBER

PARTNERS FOR A GREATER COLUMBIA

September 6, 2016

Richland County Legislative Delegation  
Richland County Judicial Center  
1701 Main Street  
Suite 409  
Post Office Box 192  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Members of the Richland County Legislative Delegation:

On behalf of the Columbia Chamber and the region's business community, I support the call from the majority of the Richland County Legislative Delegation for the immediate resignations of Richland County Recreation Commission Director James Brown, III and the following five (5) board members: J. Marie Green, Barbara Mickens, Weston Furgess, Jr., George Martin, Jr., and Joseph Weeks.

The controversy surrounding the Commission is highlighted by numerous allegations of impropriety and public corruption, including: disregard of a hostile work environment, nepotism, approval of irresponsible pay for Director Brown, multiple allegations of sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct, lack of oversight, and excessive litigation and costs.

The negative cloud cast over the entire Commission is impeding its ability to effectively and efficiently achieve its purpose "... to enrich lives and connect communities through diverse recreational opportunities and be a leader in park management and the delivery of exceptional customer service."

Our region's quality of life, especially quality recreational opportunities and attractive parks, is key to our area's economic success and the continued growth of our businesses. For this and the above stated reasons, the Columbia Chamber strongly encourages Director Brown and Commissioners Green, Mickens, Furgess, Martin, and Weeks to resign immediately, as recommended by ten members of the Richland County Legislative Delegation.

Only then will the recreational and community interests of Richland County residents again become the main focus of the Commission rather than its poor management structure and questionable operations.

The Columbia Chamber and I join you in your call for change.

Sincerely,

Carl Blackstone  
President & CEO  
Columbia Chamber

CC:

The Honorable John E. Courson  
The Honorable Darrell Jackson



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The Honorable Joel Lourie  
The Honorable John L. Scott, Jr.  
The Honorable J. Thomas McElveen, III  
The Honorable MaryGail K. Douglas  
The Honorable Joseph H. "Joe" Neal  
The Honorable Nathan Ballentine  
The Honorable James E. Smith, Jr.  
The Honorable Christopher R. "Chris" Hart  
The Honorable J. Todd Rutherford  
The Honorable Kirkman Finlay, III  
The Honorable Leon Howard  
The Honorable Joseph A. "Joe" McEachern  
The Honorable Beth E. Bernstein  
The Honorable Mia S. McLeod  
The Honorable Jimmy C. Bales