



RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Kelvin Washington
District 10

Greg Pearce
District 6

Joyce Dickerson, Chair
District 2

Kit Smith
District 5

Val Hutchinson
District 9

March 24, 2009
6:00 PM

Richland County Council Chambers
County Administration Building
2020 Hampton Street

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

February 24, 2009: Regular Meeting

Pages 3 – 5

Adoption of Agenda

Items for Action

1. A resolution to allocate \$54,100.30 in Military Forest Funds Pages 6 – 9
2. A resolution in support of the issuance by the South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority of its Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Inc. Project) Series 2009, pursuant to the provisions of Title 41, Chapter 43, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$4,500,000 Pages 10 – 16
3. Request to develop a working plan for establishing public-private partnerships for county projects and initiatives Pages 17 – 19
(Jackson)
4. Request to approve an intermediate contract with Lowcountry Billing Services Pages 20 – 21
5. A resolution affirming Richland County's commitment to fair housing Pages 22 – 24

Items for Discussion / Information

There are no items for discussion / information.

Adjournment

Staffed by: Joe Cronin

MINUTES OF



RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009 6:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair: Joyce Dickerson
Member: Valerie Hutchinson
Member: L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Member: Kit Smith
Member: Kelvin E. Washington, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Bill Malinowski, Michielle Cannon-Finch, Milton Pope, Tony McDonald, Sparty Hammett, Roxanne Matthews, Joe Cronin, Larry Smith, Pam Davis, Amelia Linder, John Hixson, Dale Welch, David Hoops, Dwight Hanna, Monique Walters, Michelle Onley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting started at approximately 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 27, 2008 (Regular Session) – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Washington, to add the \$1.1 million stimulus package to be used to complete the airport renovations. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Industrial Park budget to appropriate fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for expenses related to economic development projects – Ms.

Hutchinson moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to forward this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Amendments to Human Resources Guidelines and Policies:

- a. **An Ordinance repealing sections of the Richland County Code of Ordinances, specifically the provisions of Article VIII, entitled “Personnel Regulations,” of Chapter 2, entitled “Administration”**
- b. **Request to approve the amended Employee Handbook and Human Resources Guidelines**

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to forward these items to Council with a recommendation for approval. The vote in favor was unanimous.

An Ordinance Repealing section of the Richland County Code of Ordinances, specifically the provisions of Chapter 16, Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations; Article I, in general – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to forward this item to Council with a recommendation for denial. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Pioneer Bowl/Harambee Festival Funding Request – Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to forward this item to Council with a recommendation for denial. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Acceptance of FAA Grant – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Washington, to accept the \$1.15 million grant from the FAA for renovations at the Jim Hamilton-L. B. Owens Airport. The vote in favor was unanimous.

An ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget to appropriate one hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) for design and engineering expenses related to the runway rehabilitation project at Hamilton-Owens Airport – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr.

Washington, to forward this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Richland County Council
Administration and Finance Committee
February 24, 2009
Page Three**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Joyce Dickerson, Chair

The minutes were transcribed by Michelle M. Onley

Richland County Council Request for Action

Subject: Resolution to Distribute \$54,100.30 in Federal Forestry Funds

A. Purpose

The Richland County Treasurer has received checks from the Office of the State Treasurer for Federal Forestry Funds. These funds are generated based on a portion of the net proceeds generated by the sale of forest products extracted from Fort Jackson and other military installations located within Richland County. The total amount of forestry funds available for allocation by County Council is \$54,100.30.

B. Background / Discussion

The Richland County Treasurer currently has a total of \$54,100.30 in Federal Forestry Fund monies. These funds were received from the Office of the State Treasurer as payment based on a portion of the net proceeds generated by the sale of forest products extracted from Fort Jackson and other military installations located within Richland County.

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §2665(e)(2), "the amount paid to a State pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be expended as the State legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which the military installation or facility is situated."

Since the South Carolina Legislature has not enacted, to date, any law prescribing how these funds are to be allocated, the specific amounts to be allocated for the benefit of public schools and public roads of Richland County are at the discretion of Richland County Council.

The last time that Richland County Council allocated military forestry funds was in April 2007. The resolution passed in 2007 allocated a total amount of \$27,327.18, of which 50% was apportioned to Richland School District One, Richland School District Two, and Richland-Lexington School District Five (according to the respective student population of each district). The remaining 50% was transferred to the General Fund of Richland County to be used for the construction of new roads and/or improvement of public roads within the county.

The resolution currently before Council uses the same 50/50 allocation ratio used in 2007; however, council may adjust these proportions at its discretion.

C. Financial Impact

A total of \$54,100.30 will be divided according to a ratio set forth by Council for the benefit of public schools and public roads. There are no costs to the County associated with this request.

D. Alternatives

1. Approve the resolution allocating \$54,100.30, of which 50% will be apportioned to public schools, and the remaining 50% for the construction and/or improvement of public roads.
2. Approve the resolution allocating \$54,100.30 using a proportion other than 50/50 for distribution between public schools and roads.
3. Do not approve the resolution allocating Federal Forestry Funds for public schools and roads.

E. Recommendation

It is recommended that County Council approve either the first or second alternative.

Recommended by: Staff **Department:** Administration **Date:** March 5, 2009

F. Reviews

Finance

Reviewed by: Daniel Driggers

Date: 3/16/09

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Denial
- No Recommendation

Comments:

Legal

Reviewed by: Larry Smith

Date: 3/17/09

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Denial
- No Recommendation

Comments:

Administration

Reviewed by: Tony McDonald

Date: 3/17/09

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Denial
- No Recommendation

Comments:

COUNTY OF RICHLAND
OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER

DAVID A. ADAMS
COUNTY TREASURER



P.O. BOX 11947
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 576-2275
TDD (803) 748-4999

3 March 2009

To: Tony McDonald, Assistant County Administrator

From: David A. Adams, Richland County Treasurer

RE: Distribution of Federal Forestry Funds

Please note that the Treasury has received checks for Federal Forestry Funds in the amount of \$54,100.30. These are not funds received annually.

According to Title 10, Section 2665 (E) the United States Code of Laws, these funds may only be used for County public roads and schools.

I believe that these funds were last allocated by resolution of Richland County Council in 2007.

Please contact me with any questions or clarifications.

Richland County Council Request of Action

Subject: LRADAC JEDA Bond Issuance

A. Purpose

County Council is requested to hold a joint public hearing with the South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority (“JEDA”) in connection with JEDA’s issuance of not exceeding \$4,500,000 Economic Development Revenue Bonds to benefit Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Inc. (“LRADAC”). County Council is also requested to adopt a resolution supporting the bond issuance as required by Title 41, Chapter 43 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended (the “Enabling Act”).

B. Background / Discussion

The Enabling Act authorizes JEDA to utilize any of its program funds to establish loan programs to reduce the cost of capital to business enterprises meeting the eligibility requirements of Section 41-43-150 and for other purposes described in Section 41-43-160 thereof, and thus provide maximum opportunities for the creation and retention of jobs and improvement of the standard of living of the citizens of the State of South Carolina. The Enabling Act further provides that JEDA may issue bonds upon receipt of a certified resolution by the county in which the project will be located supporting the project and evidence of a public hearing held not less than fifteen days after publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the project is or will be located.

LRADAC is a private, nonprofit organization which exists to provide alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention services and programs in Richland County and Lexington County. Each County Council passed an Ordinance to set forth a policy for delivery of alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services; to provide for a Board of Directors for such consolidated agency; and to require that such consolidated agency maintain a close relationship to Richland and Lexington County Councils. LRADAC is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors appointed by Richland and Lexington County Councils. LRADAC has requested that JEDA issue its economic development revenue bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$4,500,000 and to lend the proceeds of the sale of such bonds to LRADAC to finance the acquisition of land and the construction and equipping of (a) an approximately 60,000 square foot building located at 2711 Colonial Drive, Columbia, Richland County, SC, on five acres of land housing a 16-bed detox unit, adult and adolescent treatment programs, prevention department, and administrative offices (facility now located on Harden Street with additional office space at St. Julian Place), the new location immediately adjacent to the Columbia Area Mental Health campus and Palmetto Richland Hospital (the “Richland Project”); (b) an approximately 10,000 square foot building located on Highway 6, Lexington, Lexington County, SC, to house treatment, prevention, and administrative offices (the “Lexington Project”), the new facility in an area offering a variety of other social service agencies serving the community (the building will be located on Highway 6 in the Town of Lexington, SC, approximately 3/10 mile on the right heading South from the intersection of Highway 6 and Interstate 20). The building will be situated in an area known as

the Red Bank shopping center at the intersection of Highway 6 and Old Two Notch Road with the South Lake Point shopping center, a CVS Drug Store, and Kangaroo Gas Station situated on the other three corners of this intersection); (c) to fund a debt service reserve fund if deemed necessary or advisable by JEDA or LRADAC; and (d) to pay other fees and expenses incurred in connection with the acquisition, construction and financing thereof.

LRADAC anticipates that the assistance of JEDA through the issuance of the bonds and the loan of the proceeds thereof to LRADAC for such purposes will result in the maintenance of permanent employment in Richland County and adjacent areas for approximately 150 people, will provide additional employment for approximately two people within 12 months and a total of four people within 24 months after completion of the Richland Project, and will stimulate the economy of Richland County and surrounding areas by increased payrolls, capital investment and tax revenues.

A draft resolution in support of the Richland Project is submitted with this request for action.

C. Financial Impact

No funds from Richland County are requested. There will be no pledge of the credit of Richland County, Lexington County, JEDA or any other governmental entity with respect to the bonds.

D. Alternatives

1. Approve Richland County's support of the issuance of bonds by JEDA for the Richland Project as required by the Enabling Act.
2. Do not approve Richland County's support of the issuance of bonds by JEDA for the Richland Project as required by the Enabling Act.

E. Recommendation

It is recommended that County Council support the issuance of bonds by JEDA for the Richland Project as required by the Enabling Act.

Recommended by: Kathleen Crum McKinney, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, Bond Counsel

Date: 03/09/09

F. Reviews

Finance

Reviewed by: Daniel Driggers

Date: 3/13/09

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments:

Legal

Reviewed by: Larry Smith

Date: 3/13/09

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Denial
- No Recommendation

Comments:

Administration

Reviewed by: Tony McDonald

Date: 3/13/09

- Recommend Approval
- Recommend Denial
- No Recommendation

Comments:

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE ISSUANCE BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA JOBS-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS (LEXINGTON-RICHLAND ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL, INC. PROJECT) SERIES 2009, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 41, CHAPTER 43, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$4,500,000.

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority (the “*Authority*”) is authorized and empowered under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 41, Chapter 43, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended (the “*Act*”), to utilize any of its program funds to establish loan programs for the purpose of reducing the cost of capital to business enterprises which meet the eligibility requirements of Section 41-43-150 of the Act and for other purposes described in Section 41-43-160 of the Act and thus provide maximum opportunities for the creation and retention of jobs and improvement of the standard of living of the citizens of the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is further authorized by Section 41-43-110 of the Act to issue revenue bonds payable by the Authority solely from a revenue producing source and secured by a pledge of said revenues in order to provide funds for any purpose authorized by the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Authority and Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Inc., a South Carolina nonprofit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the “*Borrower*”), entered into an Inducement Agreement dated July 16, 2008 (the “*Inducement Agreement*”), pursuant to which and in order to implement the public purposes enumerated in the Act, and in furtherance thereof to comply with the undertakings of the Authority pursuant to the Inducement Agreement, the Authority proposes, subject to such approval of the State Budget and Control Board of South Carolina, Richland County, and Lexington County as may be required by law, to issue not exceeding \$4,500,000 aggregate principal amount of its Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Inc. Project) Series 2009, which may be issued in one or more series (the “*Bonds*”), under and pursuant to Section 41-43-110 of the Act. A portion of the proceeds of the Bonds will be used by the Borrower to finance the acquisition of land and the construction and equipping of (a) an approximately 60,000 square foot building located at 2711 Colonial Drive, Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina, on five acres of land housing a 16-bed detox unit, adult and adolescent treatment programs, prevention department, and administrative offices (facility now located on Harden Street with additional office space at St. Julian Place), the new location immediately adjacent to the Columbia Area Mental Health campus and Palmetto Richland Hospital (the “*Richland Project*”); (b) to fund a debt service reserve fund if deemed necessary or advisable by the Authority or the Borrower; and (c) to pay other fees and expenses incurred in connection with the acquisition, construction and financing thereof. The remaining portion of the Bonds will be used to construct an approximately 10,000 square foot facility to be located in Lexington County (the

“Lexington Project”). The Richland Project and the Lexington Project will be owned and operated by the Borrower; and

WHEREAS, the Borrower is projecting that the assistance of the Authority by the issuance of the Bonds will result in the creation or maintenance of employment of those engaged in the construction or operation of the Richland Project by maintaining existing employment for 150 people and by providing additional employment for approximately two people within 12 months and a total of four people within 24 months when the Richland Project is placed in full operation, and the Richland Project will stimulate the economy of Richland County and surrounding areas by increased payrolls, capital investment and tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the County Council of Richland County and the Authority have on this date jointly held a public hearing, duly noticed by publication in newspapers having general circulation in Richland County, not less than 15 days prior to the date hereof, at which all interested persons have been given a reasonable opportunity to express their views;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Richland County, South Carolina, as follows:

SECTION 1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that (a) the Richland Project will subserve the purposes of the Act, (b) the Richland Project is anticipated to benefit the general public welfare of Richland County by providing services, employment, recreation or other public benefits not otherwise provided locally, (c) the Richland Project will give rise to no pecuniary liability of Richland County or a charge against its general credit or taxing power, (d) the amount of bonds required to finance the Richland Project is approximately \$3,300,000; and (e) the documents to be delivered by the Borrower and the Authority with respect to the Bonds will provide, among other things, (i) for the amount necessary in each year to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds, (ii) whether reserve funds of any nature will be established with respect to the retirement of the Bonds and the maintenance of the Richland Project (and, if any such reserve funds are to be so established, the amount necessary to be paid each year into such funds), and (iii) that the Borrower shall maintain the Richland Project and carry all proper insurance with respect thereto.

SECTION 2. The County Council of Richland County supports the Authority in its determination to issue the Bonds to defray the costs related to the Richland Project.

SECTION 3. All orders and resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed, and this resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its adoption.

Adopted this 21st day of April, 2009.

RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

By: _____
Chairman, County Council

ATTEST:

By: _____
Clerk to County Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority (the "Authority") and the County Council of Richland County, South Carolina, on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in Council Chambers located at 2020 Hampton Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, South Carolina, in connection with the issuance by the Authority of its Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Inc. Project) Series 2009 (the "Bonds"), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$4,500,000. The proceeds of the Bonds will be made available to Lexington-Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Inc. (the "Borrower") by way of a loan, with approximately \$3,300,000 of such proceeds being used to (i) finance the acquisition of land and the construction and equipping of an approximately 60,000 square foot building located at 2711 Colonial Drive, Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina, on five acres of land housing a 16-bed detox unit, adult and adolescent treatment programs, prevention department, and administrative offices (facility now located on Harden Street with additional office space at St. Julian Place), the new location immediately adjacent to the Columbia Area Mental Health campus and Palmetto Richland Hospital (the "Richland Project"); (ii) to fund a debt service reserve fund if deemed necessary or advisable by the Authority or the Borrower; and (iii) to pay certain costs of issuance of the Bonds. The remaining portion of the Bonds will be used to construct an approximately 10,000 square foot facility in Lexington County to house treatment, prevention and administrative offices (the "Lexington Project"). The Borrower will unconditionally covenant to make payments sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the Bonds. The Bonds will be payable solely and exclusively out of payments to be made by the Borrower.

The Bonds do not represent a general obligation of the State of South Carolina, the Authority, Richland County, Lexington County, or any other such political subdivision or agency of the State of South Carolina within the meaning of any state constitutional provision or statutory limitation or constitute or give rise to any pecuniary liability of the State or any political subdivision or agency thereof or a charge against its general credit or taxing powers.

The public is invited to attend the hearing at the address set forth above and/or submit written comments on the issuance of the Bonds and the financing of the above Richland Project to the South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority at 1201 Main Street, Suite 1600, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and the County Council of Richland County at Post Office Box 192, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

SOUTH CAROLINA JOBS-ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
s/Harry A. Huntley, Executive Vice President and COO

COUNTY COUNCIL OF RICHLAND COUNTY
s/Michelle R. Cannon-Finch, Clerk of Council

Richland County Council Request of Action

Subject: Public-Private Partnerships for County Projects

A. Purpose

Council is requested to consider a motion made by Councilman Norman Jackson regarding a plan for public-private partnerships for various county projects.

B. Background / Discussion

At the February 17, 2009 Council Meeting, Councilman Norman Jackson made a motion to develop a working plan for establishing public-private partnership for county projects such as the “Northeast Sports Complex, a Southeast Golf Park Complex, Decker Boulevard Revitalization and Southwest Park Complex.” This item was referred to the A&F Committee for consideration.

Of the four projects mentioned in Mr. Jackson’s motion, only two (Northeast Sports Complex and Decker Boulevard Revitalization) are existing county projects.

Northeast Recreation Complex: Given the cost of the Northeast Recreation Complex and the limited bonding capacity of the county’s hospitality tax fund, a public-private partnership has been previously discussed for developing and funding this project. Two teams submitted responses to the RFP for the development and operations of this facility. These two teams have most recently submitted cost proposals for the project. Procurement is currently reviewing the cost submittals, and will forward that information to the evaluation team within the next week or two. The evaluation team will review the information, and will then make a recommendation to Council regarding the most advantageous team. At that time, Council must decide the next steps for this project.

Decker Revitalization Project: The county has taken major steps in setting the foundation for the Decker Revitalization Project. To date, a master plan for the Decker Corridor has been approved, and overlay districts for the commercial corridor and surrounding neighborhood have also been approved by council, putting in place various tools for developers to use in revitalization efforts. The Planning Department is currently pursuing additional funding sources, such as federal grants, for projects such as streetscaping on Decker Boulevard. According to the county’s neighborhood planner, Tiaa Rutherford, there are opportunities for projects in the Decker area where public-private partnerships may be beneficial, such as the rehabilitation of vacant “big box” retail buildings and the restoration of Jackson Creek.

Other Projects: The county does not currently have a Southeast Golf Park Complex or a Southwest Park Complex. Council is currently considering a motion to purchase land in Lower Richland with hospitality tax funds for tourism-related activities; however the scope and use of this property has not been discussed or identified by council at this time. It is

possible that opportunities may exist for the county to pursue public-private partnerships in order to purchase and/or develop such facilities in the future.

C. Financial Impact

No financial information was provided at the time the motion.

D. Alternatives

1. Proceed with developing a plan for public-private partnerships on all items referenced in Mr. Jackson's motion.
2. Proceed with developing a plan for public-private partnerships on existing county projects, such as the Northeast Recreation Complex and Decker Boulevard Revitalization Project, with other projects to be added as they are approved by county council.
3. Do not proceed with this request at this time.

E. Recommendation

This request is at council's discretion.

Recommended by: Norman Jackson **Department:** Council Motion **Date:** 01/22/2009

F. Reviews

Finance

Reviewed by: Daniel Driggers

Date: 3/13/09

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments: There is no recommendation made to provide comment. We would recommend that any approval from Council to consider and evaluate potential public-private partnership projects be done as a study of feasibility inclusive of financial and community impact without further commitment until findings are reviewed.

Legal

Reviewed by: Larry Smith

Date: 3/13/09

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments: Each proposed agreement would need to be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine if the agreement meets the County's goals and objectives.

Administration

Reviewed by: Roxanne Matthews

Date: 3/13/09

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments: This is a policy decision of Council. It should be noted, however, that a public-private partnership is a proposed method to fund the development and operations for the Northeast Recreation Complex, and the RFP was written as such (ie, to encourage and foster a public-private partnership). The evaluation team is currently reviewing the cost proposals from the teams that responded to the RFP, and afterwards, a recommendation regarding the most advantageous team will be brought to Council. At that time, Council must decide the next steps for this project.

Richland County Council Request of Action

Subject: Intermediate Contract with Lowcountry Billing Services

A. Purpose

Council is requested to direct staff to negotiate an intermediate contract with Lowcountry Billing Services as the selected vendor, EMS Management and Consultants, Inc., assumes all billing and collections services for the County.

B. Background / Discussion

Council approved the EMS billing and collections contract award to EMS Management and Consultants, Inc. (EMSMC) at the October 28, 2009 Special Called Council Meeting.

The contract with EMSMC begins July 1, 2009. Richland County is currently using Lowcountry Billing Services (LBS) for its billing and collections. There will be an overlap in these services between EMSMC and LBS through June 30, 2010.

LBS will bill for services through June 30, 2009. There are patient accounts LBS is working from previous years doing business with the County. Accounts for which the patient has not responded in previous years, through June 30, 2009, will be sent to the SC Department of Revenue for tax garnishment by LBS. This process occurs annually through the South Carolina Association of Counties. EMSMC will manage all patient accounts (including the SC DOR Programs) effective July 1, 2009.

The County will facilitate meetings between LBS and EMSMC to insure all data held by LBS regarding Richland County EMS accounts is transferred to EMSMC by June 30, 2010. Both vendors are to work in concert with each other to insure patients do not receive conflicting correspondence.

C. Financial Impact

LBS will receive a 6.5% commission on dollars collected on accounts on and prior to June 30, 2009 through June 30, 2010. We do not anticipate a negative financial impact from this action. We anticipate a revenue stream from LBS as they collect from patient accounts and the SC DOR Debt Setoff and GEAR programs.

D. Alternatives

1. Direct staff to negotiate the intermediate contract with Lowcountry Billing Services.
2. Do not direct staff to negotiate an intermediate contract with Lowcountry Billing Services.

E. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council direct staff to negotiate the intermediate contract with Lowcountry Billing Services.

Recommended by: Roxanne Matthews **Department:** Administration **Date:** 3/11/2009

F. Reviews

Emergency Services

Reviewed by: Michael Byrd

Date: 03/13/2009

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments:

Finance

Reviewed by: Daniel Driggers

Date: 03/13/2009

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments:

Procurement

Reviewed by: Rodolfo Callwood

Date: 03/20/2009

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments:

Legal

Reviewed by: Larry Smith

Date: 03/20/2009

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments:

Administration

Reviewed by: Roxanne Matthews

Date: March 20, 2009

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments:

Richland County Council Request of Action

Subject: Fair Housing Resolution

A. Purpose

County Council is requested to approve a Fair Housing Resolution for 2009 and presentation at April 7, 2009 County Council Meeting. The Resolution will be published where economically feasible.

B. Background / Discussion

Richland County receives Community Development Block Grant and HOME (housing) grant funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for community development projects. As a result of receiving these funds and other federal funds, the County certifies that it will undertake actions to affirmatively further fair housing.

This fair housing action is in keeping with the expectations of HUD. Advertising the resolution provides awareness of the County's efforts to promote fair housing. In addition, written materials on fair housing will be made available to the public at County sponsored events and through other mediums.

C. Financial Impact

There will be minimal costs associated with efforts to affirmatively further fair housing choice. All costs have been included and will be absorbed within existing departmental budgets.

D. Alternatives

1. Adopt the attached fair housing resolution so that the County remains in compliance with the federal requirements of the CDBG and HOME programs.
2. Do not adopt the resolution and risk not receiving future CDBG and HOME grant funds due to non-compliance.

E. Recommendation

Adopt the fair housing resolution so that the County satisfies its duty to affirmatively further fair housing.

Recommended by: Valeria Jackson **Department:** Comm. Development **Date:** 3/19/2009

F. Reviews

Administration

Reviewed by: Sparty Hammett

Date: 03/20/2009

Recommend Approval

Recommend Denial

No Recommendation

Comments:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING RICHLAND COUNTY’S
COMMITMENT TO FAIR HOUSING**

WHEREAS, the Richland County Council commemorates the enactment of the Title VIII Civil Rights Act of 1968 as amended (Fair Housing Act); and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Council recognizes April as National Fair Housing Month and the County will observe the theme “FAIR HOUSING...IT’S NOT AN OPTION...IT’S THE LAW”; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Council desires that its citizens be afforded the opportunity to obtain Fair Housing Choice without the occurrence of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Council rejects discrimination in the provision of housing on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Council recognizes the County Administrator as the Fair Housing Administrator for Richland County; and

WHEREAS, The Fair Housing Administrator recognizes the Community Development Department as the official coordinator of all Fair Housing initiatives on behalf of Richland County; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Council encourages positive action toward the elimination of discriminatory practices in the sale, rental, financing and all other housing transactions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Richland County Council reaffirms its commitment to fair housing as one of the nations most cherished and fundamental values.

SIGNED AND SEALED this ____ day of _____, 2009, having been duly adopted by the Richland County Council on the ____ day of _____, 2009.

Paul Livingston, Chair
Richland County Council

ATTEST this ____ day of _____, 2009

Michielle R. Cannon-Finch
Clerk of Council