

January 2022



# DISTRICT 2 NEWSLETTER

From Councilman Derrek Pugh

Greetings!

Welcome to the fourth edition of a quarterly newsletter for the residents of Richland County Council District 2. I am honored to be your representative, and I am committed to serving you with honesty, integrity and transparency.

My first year in office has been a whirlwind. I started my term Jan. 1, 2021, under the most unprecedented circumstances ever: the coronavirus pandemic. Through this pandemic I've seen some shining lights. When litter was a problem, I saw communities band together and clean their own neighborhoods. I even gathered a group and cleaned a few communities. When the federal government gave Richland County funds for its Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the County moved swiftly to exhaust its funds and was awarded a second pot of money. Our programs were so successful, the U.S. Treasury has recognized the County for their performance.

A new year is seen as a new beginning. People sometimes set New Year's resolutions to learn something new, work out or break bad habits. This year, my resolution is to take what I learned during my first year as a Councilman and have more events and activities, increasing community involvement. Richland County has a lot to offer, and we love seeing the comm"you"nity involved and engaged.

If you have any general questions that you would like me to answer, please email me at [D2Questions@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:D2Questions@richlandcountysc.gov). Let me hear from YOU! And be sure to look out for the next quarterly newsletter in April 2022.

During my first year, I was blessed to attend and host some wonderful events – from litter cleanups, to town halls, media requests, back-to-school drives, workout sessions, bike drives and a movie screening. It was a wonderful year, and I look forward to what 2022 has to bring.



Connect with Richland County online, [richlandcountysc.gov](http://richlandcountysc.gov); through our TV channel, RCTV Spectrum 1302; social media (Facebook (/RichlandSC), YouTube (RichlandOnline), Twitter (@RichlandSC) and Instagram (RichlandCountySC)); or the County Ombudsman, 803-929-6000.



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## COMING EVENTS

### January 4

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

### January 18

Redistricting Public Hearing, 6 p.m.

### January 27-28

County Council Retreat, 9 a.m.

### February 8

Special Called Meeting, 6 p.m.

### February 15

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

### February 22

Zoning Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

### March 1

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

### March 15

County Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

### March 22

Zoning Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

## 2022 Redistricting

The United States Constitution mandates that a census count occur every 10 years. This is a count of everyone living in the United States. After that information is compiled, state and local officials use it to redraw boundaries in their respective districts. Currently Richland County is working on its redistricting. I urge everyone to visit Richland County's website to see the proposed maps as well as give input for the Jan. 18 redistricting public hearing. The final maps should be voted on during County Council's Feb. 8 special called meeting.

## Richland County Office of Small Business Opportunity (OSBO)

Is one of your goals to grow your small business? The Richland County Office of Small Business Opportunity is partnering with Richland County Library Entrepreneur-in-Residence Roshanda Pratt to host "Seeds to Engage" Pitch Workshops. These workshops can help prepare those interested in applying for the Small Business Seed Grant that will launch in January. This is a great opportunity to develop a business pitch, which is required to apply for the grant. Please contact OSBO at 803-576-1040 or email [osbo@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:osbo@richlandcountysc.gov) for more information.

Do you have an established business and want to learn how to do business with Richland County? OSBO is hosting a three-part series on understanding government contracting. Learn how to become bid-eligible and find federal, state and local government contracts.

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