

THE BULLETIN

SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
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End Racism Day Gratitude

What we do for ourselves dies with us -
what we do for others remains and is immortal.
-Albert Pike

End Racism Day in Columbia, South Carolina was a success - thanks to ALL SCHAC staff for your participation at the planned activities!

Allen University professor Dr. Kenzoe Brian Selassie said at the End Racism Day Panel Discussion, "the fact that this is sort of coming to the forefront is a good thing because this prompts more dialogue about how much work we still have before us."



Thanks to Angel Carboni of the Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology who designed the official logo.



April is Fair Housing Month

Save the date

Friday, April 8
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Fair Housing Continuing Education Classes
Earlewood Park
Columbia, SC
(Registration fee required)

Saturday, April 9
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fair Housing Conference
EdVenture Children's Museum
Columbia, SC
(Free event)

Civil Rights It Still Matters is designed to educate our community about the basic right and foundation to barrier-free housing for all, creating a path to healing the history of discrimination.

Celebrate Fair Housing Month

Fair Housing is a key component of insuring civil rights for our citizens.

The goal of the Fair Housing Act is to eliminate housing discrimination and create equal opportunity in every community.

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We're Growing!



Timmie Gibson-Hatten
Timmie is an employment discrimination investigator, who has experience in both investigations and state agency work. She is mom to a junior in high school and spends a lot of time watching him excel in any number of sports. In her spare time, she likes traveling. We are so glad she traveled over to SCHAC!



Andrew Blankenship
Andrew began employment at SCHAC on a temporary basis. As fate would have it, SCHAC was fortunate to have Andrew agree to come on as an employment discrimination investigator this past fall. Andrew is the proud owner of a seven year old beagle he calls Abigail. Andrew and Abigail enjoy exercising in the great outdoors together.



Melanie Goff
Melanie also began employment at SCHAC on a temporary basis. After observing Melanie's performance, SCHAC subsequently placed her in an employment discrimination investigator position. Melanie enjoys attending movies, plays and musicals, traveling, and being involved in outdoor activities. Thanks for being a part of our team!



Brian Alston
Brian comes to us from having worked at the South Carolina State House, and is now an employment discrimination investigator with SCHAC. Brian's knowledge of the legislative process is a true asset to SCHAC. He is a native South Carolinian, a Morehouse Man, and loves shopping, great food, and politics.



Taylor Rhodes
Taylor joins SCHAC after having completed her post-graduate degrees in both law and criminal justice. Taylor's education is sure to pave the way for great success at SCHAC. When not at work, Greenwood-native Taylor has two extremely spoiled Chihuahuas that require her attention, Huey and Shadow.



Alex Nelson
Alex is an employment discrimination investigator and has previously worked at the Department of Transportation and is also a retired Army Veteran. Alex and his wife, Janice, of forty years are the proud parents of two daughters and four grandchildren. He is currently a Youth Minister and enjoys exercising and reading.

In the last few months, SCHAC has welcomed several new faces.
Please meet our wonderful new additions!



and... Growing!



Don Frierson
Don is a former employee of SCHAC who returned to the Fair Housing Division as an investigator after his hiatus. Don has a vast amount of experience in the field and SCHAC benefits from his knowledge. Don is a local radio personality on WGCV, hosting The Urban Scene Monday through Friday at noon.



Crystal Hayes
Crystal works in Administration as the assistant to the Administrative Manager. Crystal oversees procurement operations at the office and manages the agency's vehicle assignments. In addition to her other responsibilities, Crystal is responsible for posting all employment opportunities for the agency. Job postings alone have kept her busy! Crystal came to SCHAC with prior state agency experience.



Sheila Gibbs
Sheila works in the Technical Services Department as an EEO Consultant and comes to us from the Department of Education. Sheila is a Columbia native, married, and has one son. Sheila enjoys shopping, traveling, and line dancing.



Alex Pate
Alex is our agency's newest attorney and comes to us from the Department of Consumer Affairs. He is an "Army Brat" and has done much traveling around the United States. When not working, Alex enjoys cooking, board games, trivia, and spending time with his two Siberian Huskies, Sasha and Kolya.



Gwendolyn Williams
Gwen is the agency's receptionist and assists the Intake Department with administrative duties. Gwen previously worked at USC in the Foundations Department and enjoys traveling every chance she gets. Welcome Gwen!

Cool, weird facts!

- one fourth of the bones in your body are in your feet.
- it takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it.
- Months that begin on a Sunday always have a Friday the 13th in them.

SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



Commissioner
Raymond Buxton, II



Si usted piensa que ha sido discriminado en la vivienda o en el empleo, debe ponerse en contacto con la Comisión de Asuntos Humanos. La Comisión investigará su queja y si hay una violación de la ley, la Comisión puede ayudarle a conseguir soluciones legales a los que usted tiene derecho. Si es necesario, la Comisión puede llevar casos de discriminación a una audiencia o a la corte. No importa su estado legal, la Comisión lo ayuda.

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and promote harmony and betterment in the lives of South Carolina's residents.

Vision Statement

The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission's Vision is to be well known with a positive image and a mission that is understood and accepted by the public. SCHAC is a fully resourced, customer-friendly agency with a diverse, well-trained and efficient team working together effectively in a safe and supportive work environment in fulfillment of the Agency's mission.

South Carolina General Assembly Legislative Update

On December 18, 2014, Reps. Stavrinakis (D-Charleston), Cobb-Hunter (D-Orangeburg), McKnight (D-Williamsburg) and M.S. McLeod (D-Richland) introduced H. 3253 State Employee Equal Pay for Equal Work Act:

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 12 TO CHAPTER 11, TITLE 8 ENACTING THE "SOUTH CAROLINA STATE EMPLOYEE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK ACT" SO AS TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BY GENDER REGARDLESS OF GENDER IN COMPENSATION PAID STATE EMPLOYEES FOR SAME KIND, GRADE, AND QUALITY OF THE STATE EMPLOYMENT, TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS, EXCEPTIONS, AND PROHIBIT SPECIFIC EMPLOYER ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ACT, AND TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND WHERE APPLICABLE, JUDICIAL REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

The bill was referred to Committee on Ways and Means on January 13, 2015. On December 10, 2015, Rep. Horne (R-Dorchester) introduced H. 4539 Employment Discrimination:

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 1-13-90, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS, HEARINGS, AND ORDERS INVOLVING AN EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION VIOLATION BY THE STATE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION, SO AS TO REVISE THE PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO COMPLAINTS INVOLVING A COVERED STATE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT OR SUBDIVISIONS OR PARTS OF AN AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING A REQUIREMENT FOR PRELIMINARY MEDIATION CONFERENCES CONCERNING THESE COMPLAINTS.

The bill was referred to Committee on Judiciary on January 12, 2016. On December 3, 2015, Rep. Gilliard (D-Charleston) introduced H. 4443 Mother Emanuel Nine Day:

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DECLARE JUNE 17, 2016, AS MOTHER EMANUEL NINE DAY AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL STATE AGENCIES TO REFLECT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN IMPROVING RACE RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY FOR MINORITIES AS WELL AS THE EFFORTS TO HELP THE HOMELESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The resolution was concurred on February 25, 2016.

The bills that are not passed during the 1st or 2nd session of the 121st South Carolina General Assembly will need to be introduced again next session.

Anita Dantzler & Lee Ann Rice ... **Co-Editors** Anthony Sellers & Betty Dennis ... **Copy Editors**
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