



# The Bulletin

newsletter of the

## South Carolina Human Affairs Commission



October/November/December 2019

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### Mission Statement

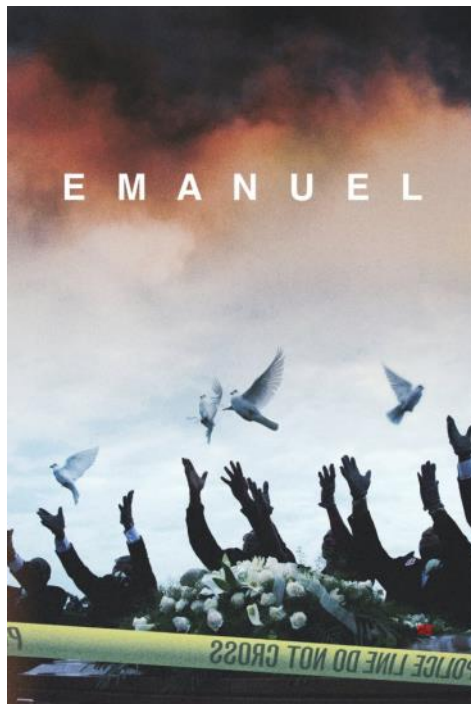
Our mission is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and promote harmony and betterment in the lives of South Carolina's residents.

### 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.

## Emanuel

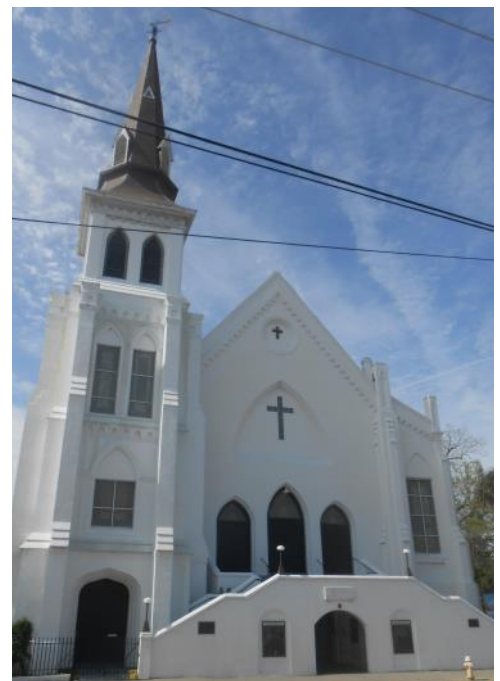
This film shown in September at the Nickelodeon Theatre in Columbia, was presented in partnership with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and South Carolina Collaborative for Race and Reconciliation.



On June 17, 2015, tragedy struck the nation when a white supremacist gunman took the lives of members of the Emanuel A.M.E. church. In the documentary Emanuel executive produced by Steph Curry's Unanimous Media, Viola Davis and Julius Tennon's JuVee Productions and Mariska Hargitay, director Brian Ivie shed light on the events and highlights the power of forgiveness. This film features intimate interviews with survivors and family members, Emanuel is a poignant story of justice and faith, love and hate, that examines the healing power of forgiveness.

The film was made in direct partnership with the City of Charleston and the families affected by the tragedy. (<https://deadline.com/2019/04/steph-curry-viola-davis-emanuel-documentary-emanuel-ame-church-1202589707/>)

A discussion was held after the film with Jennifer Gunter, Director of the SC Collaborative for Race and Reconciliation and Melvin Graham, brother of Mother Emanuel AME Church shooting victim Cynthia Hurd.



## Conversations on Race Panel Discussions

Four panel discussions will be held this year across South Carolina. The Commission has partnered with University of South Carolina's SC Collaborative for Race and Reconciliation in this endeavor. The third discussion was held in Florence County and the final program will be held on November 7 at the Lessie B. Price Senior and Youth Activity Center in Aiken.

The SC Human Affairs Commission hopes that people throughout the state will have an opportunity to attend one of the conversations to learn about South Carolina's diverse citizenry through the "No Blame, No Shame: A Conversation About Race" panel discussions. We also hope that from these discussions, a dialogue will begin in communities that will lessen the hate fueled by fear and lack of knowledge through interaction and education.

We strive to have an ethnically diverse group from the local community at each panel discussion.

## Housing Division Partners with Voces Comunitarias

The 2019 Voces Comunitarias SC event was held in Spartanburg this year. Voces Comunitarias is an event designed to bring together active Latinx community members dedicated and interested in making positive change.



This year, the event was held in both English and Spanish and focused on immigration advocacy and promoting collaboration, engagement, and leadership across cultures.

# The Legal Corner

*Some of the highlights SCHAC Attorneys worked on over the last year:*

- o Presented trainings to attorneys for Continuing Legal Education credits through local bar associations and the Attorney General's Office
- o Led outreach initiatives through presentations at a local church organization, TED Talks, and television broadcast
- o Verdict reached in administrative hearing for Fair Housing case of SCHAC v. Dale Bishop, et al.
  - o \$17,889.00 in damages to Aggrieved Party
  - o \$10,000.00 civil penalty
  - o Mandatory Fair Housing Training
- o Administrative hearing complaints filed in two cases against South Carolina Department of Corrections alleging discrimination and retaliation in employment on the basis of disability
- o Settlement reached in SCHAC v. Kerr, et al., which was pending in circuit court in Lexington County and alleged refusal to rent based on religion (Islam)
  - o \$9,000 in damages to Aggrieved Party
  - o \$2,000 civil penalty
  - o Admission of Liability
  - o Mandatory Fair Housing Training
- o Assisted in negotiating several employment settlements in charges arising under the Pregnancy Accommodations Act, one of which resulted in a final total of \$29,943.96 in relief for the Charging Party and required mandatory training for all supervisors in South Carolina at that company.

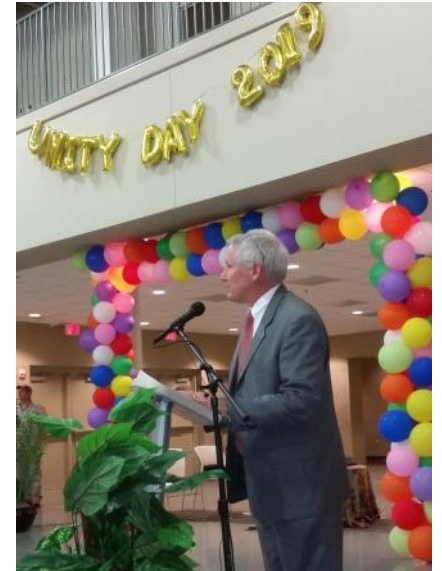


# South Carolina National Guard Unity Day

Deputy Commissioner Dan Koon was invited to speak at the first S.C. National Guard (SCNG) Unity Day at McEntire Joint National Guard Base on August 23rd. The purpose of Unity Day was to educate and create awareness, inspire and motivate the workforce to become more curious and to break down any barriers which may prevent the SCNG from being as "united" as possible!

Major General Van McCarty, Adjutant General for South Carolina and head of the South Carolina Military Department, which includes, the S.C. Army and Air National Guard, the Emergency Management Division, the State Guard, and the Youth ChalleNGe Academy brought remarks.

Performances by Native Americans (Waccamaw and Cherokee Tribes), a Hispanic group, and a group of Pacific Islanders thrilled the audience with music and dance. There were several delightful tastings available from Hispanic, Pacific Islander, Asian, African American, and Native American origins.



## 2019 IAOHRA Conference

Several SCHAC staff members attended the 2019 International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) Conference in Orlando, Florida. This year's theme was, "IAOHRA at 70: Made by History, Forging Our Global Future". Session topics included: Investigating Sexual Harassment; Reasonable Accommodations, Assistance Animals and Criminal Records; Wealth Disparities in Communities of Color; and The History of Redlining in America. Many members of our staff took a Civil Rights tour that included a stop at the Pulse Nightclub Memorial, and the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Cultural Park and Museum.

In photograph #1 are SCHAC employee Angela Adams and Joan Mulholland, a Civil Rights Movement freedom fighter and #2 features SCHAC employee Sharon Dorn with Willie Pearl Mackey King, a SCLC secretary.



## SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



SCHAC staff participates in Midlands Mediation Center training. The mission of the Midlands Mediation Center is to help individuals and organizations resolve conflict, improve relationships, and strengthen communities.



Raymond Buxton II  
Commissioner



Tonya Bethea is a new member of the SCHAC family working as an EEO Technical Services Consultant. Tonya is a recent MBA graduate from North Greenville University and has a diverse background of skills.

In her spare time she enjoys attending church, traveling, spending time with her children and watching sports. One of her favorite quotes, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work (Thomas A. Edison)." Welcome Tonya!



New employee, Danielle Lindley is the new EEO Administrative Assistant and acts as a support to Vicki Miller for a variety of tasks at the Commission.

Danielle believes that the most valuable assets an organization can have is passion and the drive to create change and is motivated by the unrelenting pursuit of that vision. When not at the Commission, she enjoys hikes, coffee, cats, and a good book.

## Board of Commissioners

### Chairman

*John A. Oakland*

### 1st District

*Cheryl F.C. Ludlam*

### 3rd District

*Ashley P. Case*

### 4th District

*Rev. Willie Thompson*

### 5th District

*Andrew C. Williams*

### 7th District

*Harold Jean Brown*

### At Large

*Joe F. Fragale*

## Procedimiento de Quejas

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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Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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