



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Georgetown County partners with Alliance to improve economic development initiative**

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — A new, formal partnership between Georgetown County government and the Alliance for Economic Development for Georgetown County, a private nonprofit, will allow both groups to work more effectively toward economic development in the county.

The Alliance took action on Tuesday to alter their bylaws, allowing the County Council-appointed Economic Development Commission to be absorbed into the governing body of the Alliance. The commission will be dissolved and the Alliance will have 21 board members, seven of which will be appointed by County Council.

Combining of the groups was recommended by a 2011 economic development study and was fully embraced by County Council, the county's administrator and economic development staff, and the Alliance.

"Georgetown County must be united in all of its economic endeavors," said County Council Chairman Johnny Morant. "The revised structure eliminates confusion regarding the handling of economic development issues within Georgetown County and allows resources to be levied and used more efficiently. It also forges a union wherein everyone is working for the common good of Georgetown County."

Following the Alliance's vote on Tuesday, Morant said he is looking forward to a new, closer relationship with the Alliance and the benefits it will bring for Georgetown County and all who live and work here. Morant acknowledged the many volunteer hours Alliance members put into economic development initiatives and, on behalf of council, thanked them for their energy and efforts, past and present. He also commended Bill Crowther, the Alliance's executive director, for his work in helping forge the agreement.

"The Alliance believes this joint commitment will help further economic development for Georgetown County," Crowther said. "The benefits to making these changes are a more cohesive working relationship for the Alliance and the County. This change will also provide the communities we serve with a united force working to enhance economic development in Georgetown County."

(More)

Under the new agreement, County Council, via the county administrator, retains authority over the county's economic development department and staff. The department will continue to be the lead entity in:

- Relations with existing industry;
- Actively working with new economic development prospects, whether developed internally or through an outside source;
- Working directly with the State Department of Commerce, the North Eastern Strategic Alliance, Santee Cooper and other agencies relevant to economic development activities.

The Alliance would support the department's role by:

- Sponsoring activities generally not fundable with public money, such as entertaining representatives from businesses being courted by the county;
- Obtaining studies pertinent to specific areas of economic impact, such as the port or the timber industry;
- Conducting periodic forums and events beneficial to economic development efforts within Georgetown County;
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with political leaders to promote legislative actions that would benefit economic development in Georgetown County;
- Other tasks that would serve to support and assist the efforts of the county's economic development director.

The Alliance's executive director and the county's economic development director will work closely together to develop strategies for each individual prospect

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