Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 2825
Date: September 25, 2007

SPECIAL MEDIA INVITATION: _Help us get the word out about this important program – Call (843) 958-4012 to set up a one-on-one interview!_

New Program Reaches Out to Small Businesses

Charleston County's Small Business Enterprise Program is race and gender neutral with an emphasis on growing and enhancing small companies.

The Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program is a new business development component of the Charleston County Contracts and Procurement Department.

The SBE Program is race and gender neutral, with an emphasis on growing and enhancing small companies in the county. The concept for it developed through a disparity study that was commissioned by County Council in 2006.

Charleston County's SBE Program has many features to aid small businesses, and is the first of its kind in South Carolina.

The SBE Program will have some guidelines in order for business owners to participate. The following are requirements for certification under the program:

- Gross revenues of $7.5 million or less
- Provide a useful commercial function
- Eligible owner is actively involved in the daily operations of the business

Additional features of the program are to:
- Enhance contract competition,
- Establish aspiration goals for SBE firms' participation on County contracts
- Conduct an outreach program that will aid entrepreneurs in business development and ready them for competing for County contracts.

Interested firms will go through a certification process by Charleston County to participate in the program. Oversight of the SBE Program will fall under the Contracts and Procurement Department Director and will be administered by the SBE Program Manager.

To learn more, contact Barrett Tolbert with the Charleston County Procurement Office at (843) 958-4761 or btolbert@charlestoncounty.org.

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