



CHARLESTON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston County News Release

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See flier: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/Council/RavenelCenterOpenHouse1-12.pdf>

Open House on Jan. 20: Ravenel Center New Location for Business Development and Career Center Offices

County's service center will be new location for Charleston Area USC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and SC Works Trident satellite office

The public is invited to join [Charleston County Government](#) during an open house drop-in from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, when the George W. Tumbleston, Jr. Ravenel Service Center opens its doors as the new satellite office for the Charleston Area [USC Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#) and the [SC Works Trident](#).

The drop-in will begin with a short ceremony at 1 p.m., and then the public will have a chance to tour the facility and ask questions about business and career opportunities. Speakers at the ceremony will be:

- [Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Charleston County Council Chairman](#)
- [Anna B. Johnson, Charleston County Council District 8](#)
- Tom Lauria, Area Manager, [USC Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#) Charleston Office
- Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, [Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments](#)

Located at [5962 Highway 165 in Ravenel](#), the center's vacant space will be utilized by the two agencies as a pilot program for one year, and if it is successful, longer term leases will be negotiated.

[Charleston County's Small Business Enterprise \(SBE\) Program](#) staff will also work out of the SBDC office space so existing business owners can explore the possibility of becoming certified by the County as an SBE. The County's program has been working with the SBDC since [Council implemented its SBE Program](#) four years ago.

"The benefits of these partnerships are great for citizens in the St. Paul's and Ravenel areas, and the Sea Islands," [Johnson](#) said. "Anyone who is a job seeker, employer or thinking about starting a new business or growing their present business should come to our open house drop-in."

The decision to house the state agencies comes about after [S.C. Rep. Robert L. Brown](#) (D-Charleston) inquired at the St. Paul's Small Business Forum on Sept. 29 about using 103 square feet of the vacated Health Department space in the County's Ravenel Service Center to accommodate the SBDC.

During a discussion with [Charleston County Council member Anna B. Johnson](#), the idea expanded to include placing a Trident One Stop Career System satellite office in the remainder of the space. As a result, Ron Mitchum, Executive Director of the [Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments](#), determined it would be feasible to use the second, 165-square-foot office, for this purpose.

During a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15, [Charleston County Council](#) approved housing the agencies in the service center, seeing the arrangement as a win-win situation.

SIDEBAR

USC Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

- Phone: (843) 740-6160
- Website: www.localssmallbusiness.org
- The SBDC is part of a national economic development program that helps start and grow small businesses in order to create jobs and revenue.
- The agency operates under a Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Small Business Administration and a consortium of four host universities (University of South Carolina, Clemson, Winthrop and South Carolina State).
- The SBDC provides private management consulting services at no charge to small businesses statewide, as well as affordable educational programs targeted to the specific needs of entrepreneurs.
- The services directly result in job creation and retention, creation of new businesses, access to financing, increased sales and resulting taxes into the economy.

SC WORKS TRIDENT

- Phone: (843) 574-1800
- Website: <http://tridentscworks.org>
- The mission of SC Works Trident is to provide the highest quality workforce development services available to their customers.
- SC Works Trident comprises one-stop centers in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties.
- The SC Works Trident offers a variety of services to help employers and job seekers meet their workforce development needs.
- SC Works Trident staff can assist any business, large or small, with their workforce development needs, offering business and industry a powerful, competitive advantage.
- Collaborating with partners in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties eliminates or reduces the costs associated with recruiting new employees, screening, placement activities, training new and existing employees and testing.

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