

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
FEBRUARY 25, 2014 – 2:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
1737 MAIN STREET**



Members of the Columbia City Council conducted an Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Sam Davis (Chair) called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Moe Baddourah were present.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. The Benefit Bank of South Carolina

Ms. Kendra Mallet, Regional Coordinator for The Benefit Bank of South Carolina advised the committee that the agency is not a financial institution; it has resources that help people move from crisis to sustainability. She explained that millions of dollars go unclaimed for Medicare Part D, SNAP, Earned Income Tax Credit and other benefits. She said that barriers to citizens obtaining these resources include: education, transportation, language and stigmas. She asked that we help put The Benefit Bank in front of the people that need help the most. The agency uses a quick check eligibility calculator; applications are submitted electronically; and it's a safe and confidential process. The Benefit Bank will be participating in the Access Columbia event scheduled for April 5, 2014.

2. Overview of the City of Columbia Housing Programs

Ms. Gloria Saeed, Executive Director of the Columbia Housing Development Corporation and the Two Notch Development Corporation explained that the TN Development Corporation was established in 1993 to create affordable rental housing primarily in the Two Notch Road area. She reported that the corporation owns parcels around the Two Notch Road area along with 17 acres off of Beltline Boulevard and on Harper Street. She noted that the board will determine the next area of focus to include the target areas identified in the city's consolidated plan. She also noted that viable financing is needed for any proposed project.

Councilor Davis stated that there should be scattered site housing.

Councilor Baddourah asked that staff identify properties that can be turned into permanent housing for the homeless. He requested a list of properties owned by the TNDC that are slated for development.

ADJOURNMENT