

April 30, 2020

Hon. Donald W. Beatty
Chief Justice of South Carolina
Supreme Court
1231 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Justice Beatty,

The Greenville community thanks you for your service and are appreciative of your **March 18th order to address statewide evictions and foreclosures based on the COVID-19 pandemic** and the difficulties imposed on individuals and institutions **which impacts housing insecurity and homelessness**. We urge you to extend the May 1 moratorium to align with the CARES Act timeline for evictions ending on July 24 to help the least fortunate in our communities in South Carolina.

Prior to the pandemic in Greenville County, we lacked over 12,000 affordable housing options for those whose annual earnings are less than \$25,000. Emergency shelters have been and continue operating at, or above capacity, while local non-profits and our United Way are working on short term assistance in motels, but still it is not enough. Greenville county has the highest number of households in the state who are rent burdened. This pandemic and its economic impact threatens to move these rent burdened families over the edge and into homelessness without an extended eviction moratorium. This would uproot families, deter education, and create additional instability in an already unstable time.

Currently our local governments and non-profits are adapting, continuing to provide and extend services during this trying time. They are working with landlords and tenants to understand their challenges, and meeting weekly to determine short- and longer-term solutions that will maximize local, state and federal resources.

That being said, the passage of extending the moratorium will make a significant difference in Greenville, maximizing this work and creating a smoother transition for all experiencing the hardship of this pandemic.

It is for these reasons the below community partners and elected officials support ordering the extension of the moratorium past May 1, to July 24th, to align with the CARES Act.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ryan Duerk
President/CEO of Miracle
Hill Ministries
Chair of The Greenville
Homeless Alliance

Bryan Brown
President & CEO
Greenville Housing Fund

Dr. Yvonne Duckett
Executive Director
Greenville County Human
Relations Commission

Supporting Elected Officials

Mayor Knox White

County Council Chairman Butch Kirven

Rep. Chandra Dillard

Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson

Sen. Karl Allen

Additional Supporting Organizations

City of Greenville

Greenville County Redevelopment Authority

United Way of Greenville County

United Housing Connections
Upstate Continuum of Care

Community Works Carolina

S. H. A. R. E.

LISC Upstate SC