

D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman
April 14, 2014
Dedication of New Coroner's Office

Good morning. As Chairman of Beaufort County Council, I am honored to be here today. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this dedication of the new Coroner's Office. Today has been a long day coming. The Coroner, for the very first time, has his own building, Beaufort County has its first morgue, and the Sheriff's Office now has a central location for its Victim and Juvenile Services Unit. During today's ceremony, Coroner Ed Allen, Captain Robert Bromage from the Sheriff's Office, and Mayor Samuel Murray of Port Royal will say a few words. First, I would like Beaufort County Councilman Gerald Dawson to lead us in the invocation.

I am sure Ed will share with you this building renovation has been one he has wanted for years. Ed has served as Coroner for three years, and has never had a building. Every few years the County would find a newer trailer for him to utilize. While Ed made this work, the time came when a Beaufort County-owned building became available. In 2013, County Council approved the spending of \$850,000 to renovate the building into suitable space. Today, we have a 2,000 square foot morgue, which includes a condolence room for bereaved families. Over the years, Ed has had conversations with family members whose loved ones had passed. Because of this renovation, he now has the proper space to have these difficult conversations. Another benefit of this renovation includes office space for the Sheriff's Office Victim and Juvenile Services Unit. This renovation is a win-win for all.

Ed, I'm very excited for you and your staff. With this new building, I know you will be able to work more efficiently for the families of Beaufort County.