



BEAUFORT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
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TO: Councilman Gerald Dawson, Chairman, Public Facilities Committee

VIA: Gary Kubic, County Administrator *GKubic*
 Joshua Gruber, Deputy County Administrator *JG*
 Eric Larson, PE, Director Environmental Engineering & Land Management *EL*

FROM: David M. Wilhelm, PE, Public Works Director *DMW*

SUBJ: Beaufort County Litter Control Plan Status Update

DATE: September 9, 2016

At the June 20, 2016 meeting, the Beaufort County Public Facilities Committee approved a ninety-day pilot program to allow the Public Works Department (PW) to take the lead role in coordinating efforts between the respective agencies involved with litter control. The current agencies and resources for litter control are SCDOT, Beaufort County Day Watch program, and Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) citizen volunteer groups. The goal is to improve litter collection efficiency throughout the County.

Immediately upon beginning this program, the County's AAH volunteer coordinator made a concerted effort to reach out to the general public to raise awareness and increase the number of AAH groups. There has been a tremendous response from the citizens of the County. At this time we have eighty six active AAH volunteer groups. In addition to coordinating these different agencies, departments and volunteer groups, the AAH coordinator is now calling upon PW crews to pick up litter when no other resource is available.

The pilot program has been very successful. In the first two months more than 10,000 pounds of litter has been collected. AAH groups, SCDOT and PW crews responded to fourteen citizen complaints. A major benefit of this program is the ability to quickly respond to a complaint. If a resource isn't immediately able to respond, PW crews are contacted. Our crews have been able pick up the litter no later than the day after the complaint was received.

Since there is no additional cost to the County, I recommend continuing this program for the remainder of the calendar year. This will allow PW to compile and evaluate more data to help us determine if this is the best method for litter control, or if the program should be modified or canceled.

Attachment: Monthly Litter Summary Chart

