For Immediate Release

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City of Columbia suspends meter enforcement for absentee voters

COLUMBIA, SC - Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin announced today that City of Columbia Parking Services and the Richland County Sheriff's Department will not be ticketing anyone voting at the Richland County Voter Registration Office for parking at an expired meter effective immediately.

This initiative, requested by Richland County Treasurer David Adams, will be in effect for metered parking on the streets surrounding the Richland County Administration Building (2020 Hampton Street) from now through Election Day.

"This is about promoting democracy and helping Americans exercise their sacred right to vote," said Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin. "It's really very simple. When you're trying to cast your ballot for President of the United States, you shouldn't have to worry about how much time is left on the meter."

"Voting is the voice of the people," said Sheriff Leon Lott. "The Sheriff's Department will not ticket those at the County building voting; this is the least we can do to help everyone get out and vote."

Residents can vote absentee in person right now at the Richland County Voter Registration Office (2020 Hampton Street).

For more information, contact the Richland County Election Commission (803) 576-2200 or visit www.scvotes.org.