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CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL'S MIDYEAR REPORT DETAILS INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C., September 10, 2019 – The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) released its 2019 midyear report today. The report details the CJCC's progress toward its ambitious goal of reaching 1,000 community members to gather community feedback that will aid in the development of the CJCC's next strategic plan.

The report reviews the CJCC's approach to community engagement and related activities in 2019. For example, the Summer Community Event Series included three large events:

- What Happens After Arrest? A Discussion of Liberty, Justice, and Safety in Charleston County
- Life After Incarceration in Charleston: Now What?
- Race in Charleston's Criminal Justice System: Unpacking Matters of Racial Equity

Each event provided a forum for community members and system leaders to come together, explore the challenges, and learn from one another. The events were also rooted in key findings that indicate a compelling need to further improve pretrial justice, lower recidivism and advance efforts to reduce the over-representation of racial and ethnic minorities in the local criminal justice system.

Approximately 460 attendees participated in large events through the end of August. The CJCC will gather additional community feedback through:

- A series of Roundtable Dialogues at various locations throughout Charleston County in September and October. This will allow small community groups, led by trained facilitators, to delve deeper into matters of safety and justice in Charleston County and generate ideas for action.
- An online community survey will be available in mid-September to collect feedback on our criminal justice system and community member priorities. And,
- A Community Action Forum held before the end of 2019 where event participants and criminal justice leadership will review the community feedback gathered and identify community priorities.

Thereafter, community priorities will be presented to the CJCC leadership for incorporation into the 2020 strategic plan. "The voice, concerns and experiences of the community are integral to the future direction of CJCC efforts. We look forward to building on progress to-date and sharpening our focus in the areas that matter the most to our community," said CJCC Chairman Stan Gragg, Deputy Chief, Mount Pleasant Police Department.

Community members are encouraged to register for the dialogues today by clicking on the "Be Heard" banner on the CJCC website. Registration closes on September 15, 2019.

For more information, visit cjcc.charlestoncounty.org.

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About the CJCC

The CJCC is a collaboration of elected and senior officials, law enforcement leaders, judicial and court leadership, behavioral health professionals, victim and legal advocates, and various community leaders working in service of the Charleston community. The mission of the CJCC is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County's criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being. The CJCC is currently funded by a Safety + Justice Challenge grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. For more information, visit www.cjcc.charlestoncounty.org.

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