

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2022**



CJCC Encourages the Community to Engage in Improving the Local Criminal Justice System: 1) Come to the next Community Justice Forum and/or 2) Apply to Serve as a CJCC Community Representative

MAY 24, 2022 – NORTH CHARLESTON, SC: The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, or CJCC, is excited to announce two upcoming avenues for the community to engage in local criminal justice system improvement efforts.

“Community engagement is critical in the work of improving our local criminal justice system. I encourage anyone who may be interested to participate in the upcoming activities,” stated CJCC Community Representative Co-Vice Chair Keith Smalls. Here are two upcoming ways to get engaged.

1. Participate in the next CJCC Community Justice Forum on May 31, 2022, “Join Us in Improving the Local Criminal Justice System”

The community is invited to participate in this virtual event on May 31 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Participants can expect a discussion of local system trends, strategic plan progress and more opportunities for community engagement moving forward. Panelists include:

- Jason Bruder, CJCC Chairman, Captain, Charleston Police Department
- Kristy Danford, CJCC Director
- Keith Smalls, CJCC Community Representative Co-Vice Chair
- Ellen Steinberg, CJCC Vice-Chairperson, Magistrate, Charleston County

Participants are encouraged to register at bit.ly/31May2022.

2. Apply to serve as a community representative on the CJCC; deadline to apply is June 30, 2022

The CJCC is seeking five volunteers to serve as community representatives for the 2022 – 2024 even-year term openings listed below. Community representatives gather and share community input and voice the diverse needs and concerns of Charleston County residents within the CJCC’s decision making process.

The current openings for Charleston County residents include:

- Local civil rights community
- Local Hispanic community
- Local graduate program community in related fields of study
- Local community-at-large
- One designated liaison from any other entity deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee

The new representatives will join seven representatives currently serving (2021-2023) from the:

- Local faith community

- Local nonprofit community
- Local healthcare community
- Local business community
- Local defense bar
- Local crime survivor community
- Previously incarcerated community

Interested community members are asked to please visit the CJCC website (cjcc.charlestoncounty.org) for the [community representative application and frequently asked questions](#). Applicants from various geographic areas within Charleston County and diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Completed applications are due no later than Thursday, June 30, 2022.

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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. Since its inception in 2015, the CJCC has taken a collaborative and data-guided approach to improve Charleston's criminal justice system with an ongoing commitment to accountability and transparency. For more information, please see the CJCC's most recent annual report [here](#). The CJCC is currently jointly funded by Charleston County and 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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