

**THE GULLAH/GEECHEE
CULTURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR
COMMISSION MEETING**

Tuesday, April 28th, 2009
7:06 p.m. – 8:39 p.m.

The GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE
CORRIDOR COMMISSION MEETING, taken on the 28th
day of April, 2009 at Bethel A.M.E. Church, located at
1530 Racepath, Conway, South Carolina 29526.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691; E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

APPEARANCES:

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Commissioner Ron Daise
Commissioner Veronica D. Gerald
Commissioner Nichole Green

ATTENDEES/SPEAKERS:

Councilman Larry White
Queenie Esther Rodgers
Marjorie Vereen
Missy Lee Ladson
Sam Frink
Dorothy Pinckney Woodbury
Doris Ballen
Claudia R. Cooper
Phillip Gilliard
Andrew Rodrigues
Saundra Ward
Reverend Floyd

ALSO PRESENT:

Sunny Fry, Videographer

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

INTRODUCTION

COMMISSIONER GERALD: We want to say welcome to Bethel A.M.E. Church Conway. Our two, transcriptionist and videographer, have been traveling around with us, and we were at Bethel McClellanville last night. Well, I'm Veronica Gerald, and most of you know me. But, we are gathered here to talk about something that's very important to our community, and we want to engage the public by getting information from you and talking with you in a conversational way as to what the things are that you feel are important in your community. But before we go any further, we'll do it in true Gullah profession, is to have an opening, an invocation by my pastor, Reverend Richard Crummy.

INVOCATION

REVEREND CRUMMY: Thank you, Dr. Gerald. Again, we extend our welcome and thanks for you coming and allowing the Bethel A.M.E. Church to be your host. And we want you to know that you are welcome,

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 as Dr. Gerald has said. And we hope and
2 trust that everything is well. We're
3 interested and look forward to hearing
4 and seeing what is to take place and how
5 much information we will receive tonight
6 and thank God that the opportunity has
7 come to Conway. And we wish that others
8 would come and be a part of this great
9 meeting. Let us pray.

10 COURT REPORTER'S

11 NOTE: (REVEREND CRUMMY
12 PRAYS.)

13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Thank you, Reverend
14 Crummy. We're going to have a official
15 welcome to the city from our Honorable
16 Larry White from the city council.

17 MR. WHITE: Good evening, ladies
18 and gentlemen, and on behalf of Mayor
19 Alys Lawson and myself and the other
20 members of the Conway City Council, this
21 is my first term there so I really must
22 say I guess I'm getting used to it, but
23 on behalf of the mayor and all the
24 members of city council, we'd like to
25 invite you and welcome you to the city

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
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1 of Conway and we're hoping that you're
2 stay here is going to be a pleasant one.
3 And we are just hoping and praying that
4 this event of the Gullah/Geechee affair
5 will be a positive one for all here, and
6 for the communities along the east coast
7 from Jacksonville, North Carolina to
8 Jacksonville, Florida. And, again, on
9 behalf of the mayor we thank you and
10 welcome you to Conway, South Carolina.

11 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Thank you. Thank you.
12 You know, growing up here in Conway we
13 always thought that because we were in
14 Conway that we didn't speak Geechee;
15 that we weren't Gullah. And we really
16 spent most of our time laughing at the
17 Gullah, and looking at Georgetown in a
18 very demeaning way because they spoke
19 that language. Today, we are really
20 working hard at getting the world to see
21 what the Gullah/Geechee culture has done
22 in the, basically building the low
23 country. The money that we see here on
24 the Grand Strand came from the backs of
25 our ancestors and from rice and rice

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
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E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 cultivation. So while we look at the
2 grandeur of the Grand Strand today, we
3 don't always connect it to who we are,
4 and that we helped to build this area.
5 Tonight, I have two other commissioners
6 present that we are a part of a 15-
7 commission group that was appointed by
8 the Department of Interior. And we're
9 going around the Gullah/Geechee country
10 doing this from Jacksonville to
11 Jacksonville, talking and engaging
12 people. And we are the Georgetown
13 group, as we call ourselves. Our first
14 commissioner is to my left, Ron Daise,
15 who's here. Ron is the director of
16 Creative Education ---

17 COMMISSIONER DAISE: That's right.

18 COMMISSIONER GERALD: --- at Brookgreen
19 Gardens. And I'm always very
20 affectionate towards Brookgreen because
21 I'm Brookgreen people. And our next
22 commissioner, I don't have my glasses
23 on, Nichole Green. Nichole is the
24 Director of the Charleston Slave Market.
25 So all of us, in some way or another, is

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 connected to working in the
2 Gullah/Geechee field and making it,
3 interpreting it and spotlighting it in
4 whatever way we can so that people can
5 begin to understand that even though we
6 have a Gullah/Geechee First Lady now,
7 there are other Gullah/Geechee people
8 and our culture is very important. So
9 I'd like to ask Commissioner Daise to
10 come forward. And, you see the panels
11 here, they tell a story, and I thought
12 that he could probably do it quicker,
13 just to kind of give you an overview of
14 the general management plan, our
15 purpose, and to describe the program as
16 it is developing, as we speak. Ron
17 Daise.

OVERVIEW

18
19 BY COMMISSIONER DAISE: Thank you. Hello,
20 everyone.

21 AUDIENCE: Hello.

22 COMMISSIONER DAISE: The purpose of this
23 meeting is to get your comments. I am
24 so very pleased to have the reminder of
25 Noah and his reminding people to come on

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 in because the rain was going to come.
2 Well the Corridor has started and the
3 Corridor will be established. And the
4 purpose of this meeting is to get your
5 comments, your feedback, because
6 everything, every site that you want to
7 have identified, every idea about how
8 this Corridor is to be developed needs
9 to come from those who reside here or
10 those who have information. We don't
11 want, at the end when it's all done,
12 when God done bar the door, you say,
13 well, no one asked me what I wanted. No
14 one responded. This is your opportunity
15 and there are other public engagement
16 meetings that will be scheduled, and at
17 any time if you want to give your
18 feedback or to call one of the
19 commissioners, or to go online, you are
20 welcome to do so. Just to inform you,
21 that can be done at
22 <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guge>, and
23 all of that information is on this
24 comment card. You have been given a
25 newsletter, or one's in the back. And

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PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 inside there is a comment card, and
2 right on the bottom line, that is where
3 the website is that gives all the
4 information that is on the panels. And
5 you can provide feedback there as well.
6 Just to give you, maybe you've heard of
7 the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage
8 Corridor before. The background is:
9 That in 2006, Congress designated the
10 Barrier Islands and the Coastal Regions
11 along the Atlantic Ocean as the
12 Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage
13 Corridor. And who is the congressman
14 who wrote this legislation?

15 AUDIENCE: Congressman Clyburn.

16 COMMISSIONER DAISE: That's correct. You
17 can say it loud.

18 AUDIENCE: Clyburn.

19 COMMISSIONER DAISE: And we're thankful to
20 him. He introduced the bill for
21 designation in 2005. And, it
22 established the Corridor, four states.
23 We're going to start with South
24 Carolina, but it extends from the
25 southern part of North Carolina, down

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 through South Carolina, Georgia, and
2 includes the northern part of Florida
3 from Jacksonville, North Carolina down
4 to Jacksonville, Florida, and it extends
5 30 miles inland. That's why we have
6 freshwater Geechees and Gullahs like
7 right up here in Myrtle Beach where they
8 grow rice, and we have saltwater
9 Geechees and Gullahs that's from down in
10 Beaufort where Sea Island cotton; that's
11 where I'm from: St. Helena Island. And
12 for those living inland, because they're
13 not in the low country, they're high
14 land Gullahs and Geechees. Now, before
15 the legislation was written, Congressman
16 Clyburn tasked the National Park Service
17 to develop a Special Resource Study.
18 Some of you may have been involved with
19 that or you may have seen the document,
20 and it is available to everyone. And
21 one of the things in that document was
22 to define, help to define just what is
23 meant by Gullah and Geechee in that
24 four-state area, and also to define and
25 identify those resources. We're going

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PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 to get to that soon, because we're still
2 continuing, trying to develop, or to
3 define just what are those resources.
4 And we want to make sure that everyone
5 is able to offer their feedback. This
6 Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage
7 Corridor is a national heritage area.
8 Let me read. This is the dictionary
9 meaning: "A national heritage area or an
10 N-H-A, is a locally managed place
11 designated by the United States
12 Congress, where natural, cultural,
13 historic, and recreational resources
14 combine to form a cohesive nationally
15 distinctive landscape arising from
16 patterns of human activity shaped by
17 geography. These areas are built on
18 community partnerships and are planned
19 around a regions shared heritage. The
20 dictionary meaning: This is an area, and
21 this is a four-state cultural national
22 heritage area, that is shaped by the
23 culture. Culture is shaped by a people.
24 And this is the only national heritage
25 area in the United States, the first and

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 only, that is designated to we culture,
2 the culture of Gullah and Geechee
3 people. Here are some resources, or a
4 list of resources. And just to inform
5 you, that when the Special Resources
6 Study was developed there was a long
7 list, a comprehensive list of places, as
8 well as natural, cultural, religious and
9 recreational resources. Since the
10 commission came together, we were asked
11 to identify some resources that were not
12 included in the Special Resource Study;
13 that's why you see the list in these two
14 panels that deal with the southern part
15 of South Carolina and the northern part
16 of South Carolina. Please know that
17 this is not a comprehensive list, and it
18 is at these meetings where we want you
19 to help us to know. Even if you don't
20 think that some of those areas or some
21 of those resources may have been
22 included in the Special Resources Study,
23 they haven't gone away; they're just not
24 listed here. Please, let us know what
25 they are. How you can participate when

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 we open the floor: We want to know would
2 you or your family like to be contacted
3 for oral history interviews. And what
4 are the top three things of
5 Gullah/Geechee culture that you would
6 protect, preserve, or continue. If any
7 of these things are historic sites,
8 please provide us with the address and
9 location of the site. As I think I said
10 before, there is a comment card located
11 inside that newsletter. If, we would
12 like you, please, to take some time,
13 even if some of the issues are spoken
14 during this meeting, write them down.
15 We only want you to think about
16 answering Questions 3 through 7, 3
17 through 7. Fill it in; pass it to one
18 of the commissioners before you leave
19 this evening; that will be greatly
20 appreciated. Another thing that when
21 you are asked to and become engaged,
22 think about any foreseen conflicts to
23 the Cultural Heritage Corridor.
24 Anything that you think may be, not a
25 good thing, but somehow may be a

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 negative thing, we will need to know
2 because a general management plan is
3 being developed. The Corridor
4 Commission has partnered with the Denver
5 Service Center to prepare this general
6 management plan. It's a blueprint that
7 will show how this Corridor is to be
8 developed for the next 10 to 15 years.
9 And that's why we are seeking your
10 input. Also, another thing is, and you
11 can identify any partnerships or any
12 financial resources that will be helpful
13 with the development of this Corridor,
14 call it out. Write it in or go to the
15 website. And at this time we're going
16 to move on. These panels are for your
17 information. I'm glad to see that
18 before the meeting started some of you
19 made your way around; they're for you to
20 look at, at any time if you're not
21 interfering with someone who may be
22 talking, feel free. And after the
23 meeting, please, come up and review
24 them. Thank you so much.

25 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Thank you. We're

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 going to use the moving mic so in case
2 some of you want me to bring it to you.
3 I want to say before we go any further:
4 The reason why we were so adamant about
5 having this meeting at Bethel Church, is
6 because Bethel Church is one of the few
7 churches still standing built in the
8 1800s. Now this congregation, a lot of
9 people define the church by the
10 building, but the church is the
11 congregation. The congregation started
12 in 1867. A lot of A.M.E. churches were
13 being built or developed during that
14 time period. Because when freedom came,
15 the first thing that slaves did was try
16 to build churches. So up and down 17,
17 Highway 17, you have a slew of A.M.E.
18 churches because African Methodism was a
19 very popular denomination at the time,
20 because they had been associated with
21 change. I was talking to Reverend
22 Crummy about Denmark Bessey, a paper
23 that I'm working on now, one of the most
24 successful plots to rebel against
25 slavery was formed out of the A.M.E.

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1 church in Charleston and by an A.M.E.
2 congregation. And we all know how
3 Richard Allen rebelled and sat away from
4 the Episcopal church. But we met at
5 Howard Auditorium in Georgetown for the
6 same reason, because it's a monument;
7 it's a site. So what we're looking for
8 in this engagement and, Queenie, I'm
9 going to ask Queenie to tell a story she
10 was telling us before we started. Yeah,
11 I put you on the spot. But remember
12 that what we're trying to find out, a
13 lot of times you're so used to your
14 culture; you're so used to who you are
15 until you don't think it's different. I
16 was in tears just the other day when I
17 found that the very first, the home of
18 the first funeral home family was
19 removed from our presence. I can't, I
20 can almost not, I can't even tell the
21 story to you. But, when you look around
22 Conway, itself, a lot of our sites are
23 being destroyed. I know they're
24 unsightly to our community and that
25 they're not sites that we find to be

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1 valuable, but these are places of
2 significance that would be noted on the
3 Corridor. And as people visit the
4 Corridor, then they would be able to
5 understand the stories of Conway people
6 or peoples around Conway: Bucksport,
7 Cochran, and people who came to this
8 area to work in the pulp wood and the
9 turpentine industry. So, nothing is
10 insignificant. And I want to ask
11 Queenie to come and tell us a little bit
12 about the story that she was telling
13 before we started, about her grandfather
14 and Rodgerstown. You want to stay
15 there?

16 MS. RODGERS: Yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Oh, and by the way, we
18 have these women that are writing down
19 everything we're saying. Not to be used
20 against us, but to document what we're
21 doing. So last night in some of the
22 engagements that we had, people would
23 get excited and we talk over each other,
24 well she can't, she can't record it when
25 we talk over each other. So if you'd

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E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 just kind of do it one at a time.

2 **PUBLIC SPEAKERS/ATTENDEES**

3 MS. RODGERS: Well, I didn't plan
4 this, but when we were talking I thought
5 about my great-grandfather. And we were
6 talking about heritage. To him it was
7 land. When he came to this country, to
8 North Carolina, he came on a turpentine
9 boat, as told to me by my aunt, one of
10 his daughters, his granddaughters. And
11 she said that, we call him grandpap.
12 Grandpap came on the turpentine boat.
13 He got to the area that we lived in,
14 which we called De Creek. And it's in
15 Georgetown County. It's three miles
16 south of the Williamsburg County Line
17 Road. He bought some land. I don't
18 remember how much he said he paid for
19 the land, but he bought what we
20 considered a lot of land. But in buying
21 this land, it was under a throughway, we
22 would say. It's a highway that leads
23 through Georgetown to Hemingway. Now a
24 part of it is on 261; back in the old
25 days it was 51. But you could buy a bus

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 ticket from Charleston or from
2 Georgetown that says Rodgerstown. And
3 this Rodgerstown is where I was born and
4 raised; where my grandfather bought this
5 land and raised his children. And the
6 road goes through the land; it's on the
7 right side of the road and the left side
8 of the road. Well he had two sons. And
9 the left side of the road going toward
10 Hemingway from Georgetown, he gave to
11 one son, and all the land that's on the
12 other side of the road he gave to his
13 other son. Well as time passed, my
14 great-grandmother died and he married
15 again and he had more kids. So he got
16 more land.

17 AUDIENCE: (CHUCKLING.)

18 MS. RODGERS: So, the thing about it,
19 he made arrangements for those kids to
20 have their own land. So even today most
21 of that land is still in the Rodgers
22 family. As years passed and back in
23 those days we went to school. I want to
24 talk about school. I won't take up all
25 your time, but he built the school

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 because they had no school. And he
2 wanted his children and his
3 grandchildren to have an education, so
4 he built a little one-room school right
5 on his land. But as time passed, then
6 the county built a three-room school and
7 it went to the eighth grade. But back
8 in those days, my aunt told me that they
9 graduated at 10th grade. And then right
10 after then they went to the 11th grade.
11 But that's why they put a one-room
12 school in those days. But I went to
13 this three-room school and we would go
14 to the 8th grade, and then we'd go to
15 Georgetown to Howard, where I graduated
16 from in the 12th grade. But in the
17 beginning he started a school because
18 there was no school. And the teachers
19 came from Georgetown and stayed at our
20 house during the week because they had
21 no car. So they stayed 'til the
22 weekend, then they would go home and
23 come back on Sunday night. So I had to
24 be good in school because the teachers
25 would tell everything I did while I was

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
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E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 at school.

2 AUDIENCE: (CHUCKLING.)

3 MS. RODGERS: But anyway, those

4 teachers would live with us during the

5 week, and that went on until, until the

6 school's you know, until we got to the

7 other school; they built the other

8 school. So then they built a bigger

9 elementary school, which called De Creek

10 School. It started at De Creek School,

11 but then they built another school, but

12 they bought the property to build the

13 school from my father. So where De

14 Creek School is now, the property that

15 was left to me by my father, adjoins

16 where the school is. So all that

17 property and all that surrounding area

18 belonged at one time to my great-

19 grandfather. And I just wanted to get

20 in there about that bus ticket, because

21 the bus don't no longer come through

22 there. The highway is no longer 51;

23 it's part of 261. But, at one time you

24 could buy a ticket, a bus ticket, to a

25 black community called Rodgerstown.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me; your name,
2 please, ma'am?

3 MS. RODGERS: Queen Esther Rodgers.

4 COURT REPORTER: Thank you very much.

5 MS. RODGERS: Uh-huh (affirmative
6 response). With a "D."

7 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah, I did forget to
9 tell them. We need you to state your
10 name, and when you do talk about a site,
11 if you would be very specific about
12 where it is and that kind of thing.
13 Yes, ma'am? Now, you want to be on
14 camera?

15 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)

16 MS. VEREEN: I'd like to represent
17 my grand, my mother and her family,
18 Breechie White, of the corner of 378.
19 My mother was born on 378 and they were
20 the first family that moved on that land
21 out there. My grandfather and great-
22 grandfather bought land from 378 9th
23 Avenue, 16th Avenue over to Conway, old
24 Conway Hospital; you all know where it's
25 at. He interns during the time they

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 build a graveyard, and the graveyard is
2 still being used; people being put in
3 it. There was a family, they also built
4 low housing right there at, where Levi
5 place at; all that was called Tin Top
6 Alley. They built houses there for
7 people to live, and then Levi came in
8 after that. Now my mother and my
9 father, my mother and all her sisters
10 and brothers have the piece of land that
11 they grandfather, they father left them.
12 Their children, including myself and my
13 brother, Angie Hemingway, Henry
14 Hemingway, now we're staying in the old
15 houses that our own fathers built with
16 they own hands. They weren't
17 contracted. They couldn't buy lumber at
18 that time. The house I live in, my
19 father and my uncle built, and that was
20 70, I think it's 70 years old.

21 COMMISSIONER GERALD: What's the address?

22 MS. VEREEN: 932 3, Wright
23 Boulevard, which you might call 378 now.
24 Which at first it was, they called it
25 Potato Bed Ferry Road. It was all clay.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 There wasn't no highway. It didn't go
2 all the way through to nowhere. Mother
3 say she can remember during the days
4 when they moved there that they could
5 reach their hand out of windows in the
6 forest and touch the trees around the
7 house. And we had long talks about
8 different things. My great-grandfather
9 and grandmother is buried right there in
10 the Hemingway Cemetery.

11 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Where is that located?

12 MS. VEREEN: That's located, I don't
13 know the address down in there. Mr. ---

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ward.

15 MS. VEREEN: Ward Circle, no, it's
16 not Ward Circle.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Taylor Square. It is
18 Ward Circle. It's Taylor Square.

19 MS. VEREEN: That wouldn't be called
20 Ward Circle down in there.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Taylor Street.

22 MS. VEREEN: Well. Taylor Street.
23 Well, I'm not going to fuss with you
24 because I never knew the area down in
25 there. But that's Hemingway, that was

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 Hemingway Graveyard for years. And
2 there's still people being put down
3 there.
4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Do you know anything
5 about the T.B. camp? Was it a T.B. camp
6 back there somewhere on Potato Bed Ferry
7 where they used to put ---
8 MS. VEREEN: T.B. camp?
9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: --- used to put people
10 with tuberculosis?
11 MS. VEREEN: I never knowed anything
12 about that. I know families and things;
13 people were very irritable about that
14 years ago.
15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Ms. Gerald, it may be
16 the Michaels.
17 MS. VEREEN: She, Ms. Ladson might
18 know about that.
19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She knows about that.
20 MS. VEREEN: I don't know. I never
21 heard of that one before.
22 MS. LADSON: It's back, it was put
23 back there, what's that Whittemore
24 Junior School? What's that school ---
25 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: The primary school.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 MS. VEREEN: That was Whittemore
2 Elementary ---
3 MS. LADSON: That's back there.
4 MS. VEREEN: --- and high school
5 then before it became Whittemore Middle.
6 MS. LADSON: Not there. It's the
7 other school in the back.
8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The old Whittemore
9 School.
10 MS. LADSON: It's not a school; it's
11 a office.
12 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (Chatter.) It used to
13 be a primary school. Now it's the ---
14 MS. VEREEN: I think they call that
15 Whittemore Public School; it was a old
16 gray building. Whittemore Public
17 School.
18 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yes, ma'am.
19 MS. VEREEN: And that was off of
20 Racepath's, down in there, between
21 Racepath's and 378.
22 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Oh, the first school?
23 MS. VEREEN: That's the, the school
24 that I can remember. My mother and
25 those said they went to school in that

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 building.

2 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Uh-huh (affirmative
3 response). I remember.

4 MS. VEREEN: And that's off of 9th
5 Avenue in between where the Cherry Hill
6 Apartments there was a big, a two-story
7 school there. Years ago I can remember
8 that's where we'd go.

9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: That's on 9th Avenue?

10 MS. VEREEN: Uh-huh (affirmative
11 response). It was right there where the
12 Cherry Hill Apartments at.

13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Did you give your name?

14 MS. VEREEN: My name is Marjorie
15 Vereen. I can, I have so many things
16 that my mom told me but I, you know,
17 just getting up talking about it. I
18 remember she told me a lot of things
19 that where the old, where the church was
20 when before and now. It was where
21 McIver Funeral Home is, was. And she
22 talked about the ferry that they used to
23 go on Saturday afternoons to go dancing,
24 on down to the ferry.

25 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Come dancing.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 MS. VEREEN: They used to go from,
2 you know, I don't know where they used
3 to go at, but she told me about that.
4 But I can't remember all that. That's
5 about all for right now.

6 COMMISSIONER GERALD: That's a good example.
7 Write it down. I'm going to come around
8 to you, Ms. Ladson. I don't know
9 whether you're the senior member in the
10 audience or not. Don't look at me like
11 that, Ms. Ladson. We need your input.
12 Tell us about the T.B. camp. Come on.

13 MS. LADSON: Well, over there where
14 you call Mooretown ---

15 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Grainger Road?

16 MS. LADSON: Yeah, up on Grainger
17 Road. That camp, that house was there
18 before we'd get to Mooretown.

19 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Oh, it was in a house?

20 MS. LADSON: Yeah, it was a big
21 house.

22 COMMISSIONER GERALD: How did you get to go
23 to the T.B. camp? What ---

24 MS. LADSON: You would come to a
25 path if you was coming up, it wasn't on

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 378 then. But if you was coming that
2 direction, you would go through a path.
3 And through that path you would, you
4 would go to this great, big, it was a
5 big ole' house, and it had some rooms in
6 it.

7 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Is that like a
8 hospital?

9 MS. LADSON: No, it was the house.
10 But they had beds and it was right
11 behind, not too far, that school.

12 COMMISSIONER GERALD: That's Whittemore
13 Elementary School?

14 MS. LADSON: Yes, back that way.
15 And you went through a path to go to
16 that house. And then the next station
17 was Mooretown.

18 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Now, who worked in the
19 house? Did they have nurses and
20 doctors?

21 MS. LADSON: They had Ms., what the
22 lady name? I forgot her name, but she,
23 she was a, I would call a practical
24 nurse. She was there sometimes and she
25 had some buildings right there by Ms.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 McCoy.

2 MS. VEREEN: You're not talking
3 about Ms. Spain?

4 MS. LADSON: Huh?

5 MS. VEREEN: You're not talking
6 about Ms. Spain?

7 MS. LADSON: No, not Ms. Etta Mae
8 Spain. Ms. ---

9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: John McCoy.

10 MS. LADSON: John McCoy house and
11 those houses. This lady wasn't one of
12 those nurses or anything that had, had
13 some houses right down in there. And
14 she worked there, and who else worked in
15 that place?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Sarah Lloyd.

17 MS. LADSON: Uh-huh (affirmative
18 response).

19 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Annie Griggner.

20 MS. LADSON: Yeah, Annie Griggner;
21 that's who it was, Ms. Annie Griggner.
22 So she had some houses and she used to
23 rent the houses out. And she was one of
24 the nurses would go to that building.

25 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Were they all black

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 people?

2 MS. LADSON: Yeah, it was black, all
3 was in there were black in that
4 building. And then you'd walk right by
5 that building and the next spot was
6 Mooretown, then Graingertown.

7 COMMISSIONER GERALD: So Conway was divided
8 into towns, little communities?

9 MS. LADSON: No, it was communities.
10 Just like Conway over there was
11 Mooretown and over on this side was
12 Graingertown.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right.

14 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Sugar Hill.

15 MS. LADSON: Sugar Hill was further
16 down this way, coming this way.

17 MR. FRINK: I was wondering if the
18 patients volunteered to go or if they
19 were sent there by someone acting as a
20 doctor?

21 MS. LADSON: They were sent there.
22 Dr. Stalvey, who was the doctor then?
23 There was Dr. Stalvey and I can't
24 remember all them people now.

25 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not Dr. Campbell.
2 MS. LADSON: Huh?
3 MR. FRINK: Dr. Campbell?
4 MS. LADSON: No. Huh-uh (negative
5 response). That was before Dr.
6 Campbell. It was Dr. Stalvey and Dr.,
7 now what was his name, was the other
8 doctor? The dentist was Dr. Rutledge.
9 And the dentist was Dr. Rutledge and Dr.
10 Stalvey and, because Dr. Stalvey had a
11 office here and he had a office to
12 Bucksport.
13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: You're doing all right
14 not to remember much.
15 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)
16 MS. LADSON: And if you, if they had
17 test you and you had tuberculosis,
18 that's where they would send you, to
19 that building.
20 COMMISSIONER GERALD: And I guess they had a
21 place for whites somewhere else?
22 MS. LADSON: I don't know where the
23 white was, but I know all that was in
24 that building was black.
25 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Missy Lee Ladson.

2 MS. LADSON: And I know all in that
3 building was black people.

4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: And Sam Frink, F-R-I-N-
5 K. Anybody else? What we're looking
6 for, those of you that came in, what
7 we're looking for is anything that you
8 think will go unnoticed 25 years from
9 now when you might not be here and your
10 great, great grandkids want to learn
11 about the Gullah/Geechee people.
12 Something that you think needs to be
13 included in the story.

14 MR. WHITE: Would Rains be a part
15 of this ---

16 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yes, Rains would be 30
17 miles in.

18 MR. WHITE: Larry White is my name.
19 In the Rains Community, my grandparents,
20 grandfather, Joe Bernie White, he owned
21 a lot of land in that area. And it was
22 told to me that he owned land from Rains
23 all the way down to Galivants Ferry. He
24 even gave the land to what is now
25 Bethlehem A.M.E. Church. So that was

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 one of the, that's the, you know, one of
2 the older churches in Marion County,
3 A.M.E. churches. And a lot of the land
4 on the, cross 501 also belonged to him
5 and my grandparents. I don't know what
6 happened to it; we don't own it anymore.
7 But the church is still there and it's
8 still a part of the community, Bethlehem
9 A.M.E. Church. And some of the family
10 members still go there to church, but
11 most of them have died off and now the
12 younger children are going to different
13 churches. So that is a part of our
14 history that was in the Marion County or
15 in the Rains Community. They used to
16 call it 41 and what else did we call
17 that area? And I never lived there, but
18 we just went and visited there. And
19 their first, my grandmother was also one
20 of the teachers there, Eleanor White was
21 her name. And she was one of the first
22 teachers in the Marion County area, and
23 everybody called her Ms. Eleanor or Ms.
24 Baby. So those are two, I guess some
25 good information from the Marion County

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 area. I would love to be able to get
2 more information on that part from my
3 cousins that live in Marion because
4 they're historians for that area, of
5 that side of town. At a later date I'd
6 like to get that information as well.
7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD: They say the Gullah
9 people named the town Rains because it
10 rained. They were trying to build a
11 railroad track, and they couldn't ever
12 get it built because it rained the whole
13 time.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah? That's the other
16 thing: Are there communities that are
17 named as Rodgerstown for Gullah/Geechee
18 people like the Cochrans? Anybody know
19 anything about Cochran and the Cochran
20 family out there, Toddsville? I see the
21 Woodburys here.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Tinker Town.

23 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Huh? Tinker Town. Ms.
24 Ladson was telling us about all the
25 towns. Conway was comprised of towns.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 And Ms. Woodbury, you're going to share
2 with us about ---
3 MS. WOODBURY: Tinker Town.
4 MS. GERALD: Doris.
5 MS. WOODBURY: Well I just know it's,
6 the name of it's Tinker Town, which we
7 renamed after Mr. Tinker Pertell. So he
8 lived there a long time and then they
9 just called it Tinker Town after him.
10 But one thing I'd like to mention,
11 because I know a lot of bits and pieces
12 so it would be hard to put it together.
13 My grandfather's name was Henry Green.
14 My grandfather's name was Henry Green.
15 And he was from Santee; that's
16 Georgetown County. And he used to own a
17 rice field. I got this from my mother,
18 Daisy Pinckney, at the time. A rice
19 field, and they used to plant rice and
20 people would come and, I don't know if
21 they used to pick rice or beat it or
22 whatever, but when they got retired from
23 living in the, I'm going to call it the
24 country, and came to Conway, which was
25 like a city. They didn't ever sell land

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 and I guess they didn't ever went back
2 and pay the taxes, and the land just was
3 taken by someone. And then they like
4 owned it ever since. But it was lots of
5 acreage of land that my grandfather
6 owned that just, it just went away; I'd
7 say. And another thing, as Ms. Ladson
8 was saying about Miss, was it Grate?
9 What's the lady's name, Grate?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Annie Grate.

11 MS. WOODBURY: Ms. Annie Grate. I
12 remember another lady; her name was
13 Parmley, but they were midwives. I
14 don't, seemed like Ms. Annie was one,
15 but I know Ms. Parmley was a midwife.
16 And they used to live, like she said, it
17 was a road. You go behind where Rose
18 Hill Cemetery is; it was a road. And
19 when the lady, young lady would be going
20 into labor, you would have to walk
21 through that long path to get here, then
22 she'd have to come back to the lady that
23 was in labor to have the baby. It
24 wasn't going to the hospital. There was
25 no babies born in the hospitals back

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 then, you know, so I know a lot of bits
2 and pieces but I won't try to put it all
3 together. But I did want to mention all
4 that land my granddaddy walked off and
5 left, what I'd like to have a piece of.

6 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

7 MS. WOODBURY: My name at the time was
8 Dorothy Pinckney. I'm now Dorothy
9 Woodbury, but at that time my name was
10 Dorothy Pinckney. And my mother was
11 born in Santee, and my grandmother and
12 all of them, my whole, the family from
13 way back, was born in Georgetown County,
14 which is Santee, South Carolina now.

15 COMMISSIONER DAISE: Were you aware of any
16 of midwife practices, because that's
17 another intangible kinds of resources
18 that you can identify, parts of, aspects
19 of culture. Anything that you want to
20 make sure would be included and
21 remembered.

22 MS. WOODBURY: Well, I really don't
23 know where it was or where it is. It's
24 just that my mother told me, which was
25 her father, grandfather's. When you got

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 there and come to Conway, but they came,
2 a lot of them came to Conway. Well,
3 that's where I was born, in Conway. And
4 they just didn't ever go back. But I
5 don't know the name of it. But I just
6 know, my mother say it's a rice field.
7 It was a rice field.

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD: In Marion?

9 MS. WOODBURY: No, no,no. Santee.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It was Santee.

11 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Thank you. He was
12 asking about midwife ---

13 COMMISSIONER DAISE: Any kind of customs,
14 beliefs or anything that any midwives
15 that you remember that are important to
16 the Conway and surrounding communities?

17 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Doris says she
18 remembers.

19 MS. BALLEEN: My name is Doris
20 Ballen. Back in 1955 my oldest sister
21 was pregnant and she, her baby was
22 delivered at home. I was about 10-years
23 old; I think, but I remember Ms. Nina,
24 no, Ms. Sarah Lloyd, Ms. Sarah Lloyd
25 delivered the baby. It was in 1955.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 And she had another one, a couple years
2 later, and Ms. Sarah Lloyd also
3 delivered that child. And it's an
4 experience. I mean I was a little girl,
5 but I wasn't crazy.

6 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

7 MS. BALLEEN: You know, I knew
8 something was going on. And here again,
9 some 57 years ago, there was a gentleman
10 that lived down the street from us,
11 named Mr. Jim Jackson. And I'm sure
12 some of you remember Mr. Jim. He shoed
13 horses or mules, or whatever you call
14 it, for the whole Horry County. And I
15 was lucky enough to go, me and my
16 sister, go with him one day on the horse
17 and buggy. And we was just so amazed at
18 going in the country, seeing all the
19 animals, because we lived in the city.
20 We never did see much cows and pigs and
21 horses and what not, and we watched them
22 shoe the mules, and that's amazing. So
23 we had to stay out of the way, though,
24 so that's my story.

25 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 MS. VEREEN: I'd like to recognize
2 Ms. Spain. She was a midwife here in
3 Conway for years, because I think she
4 was a midwife when my mother had three
5 or four of her children, and all of my
6 mother's children were born at home.
7 But there was another old lady that
8 lived like, she lived in a old house ---
9 MS. LADSON: In a old house.
10 MS. VEREEN: What was that old lady?
11 She used to wear long gowns and long
12 dresses. She was the midwife to my
13 mother then. But I know Ms. Spain, she
14 was the midwife around Conway to a lot
15 of children.
16 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Ms. Sarah Lloyd. To
17 answer your question, Ron, Ms. Sarah
18 Lloyd owned a church in my neighborhood
19 so I got to know her for many years.
20 She said that you can look at the
21 umbilical cord and tell how many
22 children the woman was going to have.
23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right.
24 COMMISSIONER GERALD: And that the midwife
25 would tell the woman: You've got four

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 more coming or 10 more or whatever.

2 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

3 COMMISSIONER GERALD: So one of the things
4 about midwives is: That they would tell
5 the mother things like that. Also,
6 putting the axe under the bed to cut the
7 pain and things like that, a lot of
8 practices like that.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER:

10 (Inaudible/intelligible.)

11 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah. So a lot of the
12 midwife was very important. Anybody got
13 a midwife story?

14 MS. RODRIGUES: I have one.

15 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Okay. And I got a lady
16 in the back here.

17 MS. RODRIGUES: My name is Bunny
18 Rodrigues, and I'm out of Georgetown
19 County. And it's nice to know that some
20 of the, most of you here tonight, your
21 ancestors came out of Georgetown, you
22 know. And if you do Conway, if you do
23 Myrtle Beach and Atlantic Beach, you are
24 Gullah/Geechee. Everything started in
25 Georgetown, Charleston and Beaufort. So

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 I'm pleased to know that you all are now
2 Gullah/Geechee, Number 1, okay?

3 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

4 MS. RODRIGUES: Because, (chuckling),
5 and I know the good sister over there;
6 she's got to remember me. The Queen
7 Esther Rodgers, I'm Betty Lou's sister,
8 Smith. I'm Bunny, girl. (Chuckling.)
9 Well, anyway, my mother was a midwife.
10 And I do have the midwife book in my
11 museum, because the midwives were our
12 first healthcare givers. They took care
13 everybody: white, black, blue or green.
14 And also found out the wet nest. Did
15 you know the lady at the big house got
16 nesting babies?

17 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

18 MS. RODRIGUES: It still blows my mind
19 that they had to find us to nurse the
20 babies.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right.

22 MS. RODRIGUES: But it's a pleasure to
23 be here in Conway, and I do know a
24 little about Horry County and something
25 about the Burgess Community. I don't

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 see anybody here tonight. Anybody here
2 from Freewood Farm? But I have a very
3 good friend in the Burgess Community,
4 and she told me that you only not have
5 Atlantic Beach in Horry County, we had
6 Flora Beach. You go straight down on
7 Surfside, you know. And there, do you
8 know we got, what's that big hotel, the
9 complex down there?

10 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Oh ---

11 MS. RODRIGUES: No, by the museum.
12 Can't think of it right now.

13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Springmaid Beach.

14 MS. RODRIGUES: Springmaid Beach.

15 That's where you have a slave cemetery.

16 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Poontakee.

17 (Phonetically spelled.)

18 MS. RODRIGUES: I don't know the name
19 of it but we need to start researching
20 our history in Horry County and stop
21 being not so proud to say I'm not
22 Gullah/Geechee.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I know that's right.

24 MS. RODRIGUES: And not letting Myrtle
25 Beach control us.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right.
2 MS. RODRIGUES: Because once Myrtle
3 Beach get in there, they going to be
4 selling t-shirts: Gullah people on
5 Myrtle Beach. But we ain't gone get one
6 penny.
7 AUDIENCE: (Chuckling.)
8 MS. RODRIGUES: And I'm worried about
9 it when I looked up there and saw Myrtle
10 Beach. Myrtle Beach has never
11 recognized Gullah/Geechee people, and
12 they still don't. Okay. That's ---
13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: They work them.
14 MS. RODRIGUES: Huh?
15 COMMISSIONER GERALD: They work them.
16 MS. RODRIGUES: Yeah, they work them.
17 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)
18 MS. RODRIGUES: But you know when I
19 used to work on the beach, one thing I
20 could say: The Conway people, they
21 didn't do a lot of that maid work over
22 there on that beach.
23 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes, we did. Yes, we
24 did.
25 MS. RODRIGUES: Not a lot of them. Not

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 a lot of people from Georgetown, we
2 control all of them: Mammy's Kitchen,
3 the Poindexter.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

5 MS. RODRIGUES: (Chuckling.) The
6 Breakers. I worked at the Periscope.

7 AUDIENCE: (Chatter and laughter.)

8 MS. RODRIGUES: But anyway, I always
9 love coming into Conway and I'm very
10 proud that you begin now to recognize
11 your culture. And most of you, when you
12 trace your ancestors, they back to
13 Georgetown. And they said I'm from
14 Conway. You know, you all got a little
15 nasal accent. Because people say take
16 care for Tim, get it, get it to him. He
17 going to town. You don't -- No.
18 (Chuckling.)

19 AUDIENCE: (Chuckling.)

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Say that again, please.

21 MS. RODRIGUES: You from up there; that
22 way, and you all right from down here.

23 AUDIENCE: (Chuckling.)

24 MS. RODRIGUES: Don't kid yourself. I
25 was telling -- Andrew stop punching me

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 in my back. (Referring to her husband,
2 Mr. Rodrigues.)

3 (Inaudible/unintelligible.)

4 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

5 MR. RODRIGUES: They want you to talk
6 about the midwife; that's what I was
7 trying to punch you.

8 MS. RODRIGUES: Well, the midwife is a
9 long story. And you know a lot of
10 people know a lot about midwives, but
11 then some midwives could tell you, also,
12 I had some people in my family. We did
13 something with birth control. Birth
14 control, and we don't want to talk about
15 that. Mind you, there's some families
16 that never had any, ladies never had any
17 children, chirren, (phonetically
18 spelled), because we didn't call it, we
19 never said chirren, (phonetically
20 spelled). We said them chirren,
21 (phonetically spelled) okay. And we
22 never say mammy; we says momma. We say
23 dad. We say dis here. We say nanna,
24 and we say ma dear. We ain't never call
25 her mammy, 'cause you'll get slapped in

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 your face. Well, anyway, we need to
2 start recording some of those things,
3 and it takes money and it takes time.
4 Some families do not want to talk about
5 it. I do know families in Georgetown
6 and Horry County that actually help
7 people practice, not abortion, birth
8 control. And it's been a little secret.
9 We got a lot of little African secret
10 among us. And we need to start
11 remembering and get some families to
12 talk about it. Just like in Georgetown
13 County, over there in Santee area, some
14 families who owned slaves don't want to
15 talk about it. You know like the Harris
16 and the Collins and whatnot, and the
17 Mitchells. So we have so much history.
18 And if your history in this county, I
19 mean in this county, Horry County, it's
20 Georgetown history. And all of it is
21 Gullah/Geechee.

22 COMMISSIONER DAISE: The birth control
23 you're talking about was that using
24 herbs, and also I'm trying to ---

25 MS. RODRIGUES: Huh-uh (negative

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 response).

2 COMMISSIONER DAISE: Well I'm trying to get

3 you ---

4 MS. RODRIGUES: Ah-uh (negative

5 response).

6 COMMISSIONER DAISE: --- identify ---

7 MS. RODRIGUES: You know, I didn't

8 really know what you were talking about.

9 COMMISSIONER DAISE: Okay.

10 MS. RODRIGUES: This guy used to come

11 by my dad's house. In my family we had

12 six girls before we had, my parents had

13 their first boy. And he would say,

14 hear, let me circumcise them girls

15 because you gone have some trouble.

16 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

17 MS. RODRIGUES: And daddy would say,

18 no, I can't help you do that. All of

19 his children, there are three girls that

20 went to college. Now, not any of them

21 had any children. I'm not even going to

22 call their names. But, when I had a

23 hysterectomy, then I understood what he

24 was talking about. Because my daddy

25 used to always bring them chicken, you

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 know. Crow would, chicken would eat so
2 much of this cow peas and his neck would
3 be all puffy. My husband didn't believe
4 me. And daddy would slice the neck from
5 the side; take it out and sew up the
6 chicken. Chicken go back in the yard.
7 But what they did was almost like a
8 vaginal hysterectomy.

9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Of a chicken?

10 MS. RODRIGUES: No, on a human. I was
11 just talking chicken -- On the human.
12 (Chuckling.) Oh, no, no, no, on the
13 human. I'm just saying that we did a
14 lot of medical things. We just look at
15 it. But we need to start remembering
16 some of these things that they actually
17 did. Mind you, probably I'm much older
18 than most of you here because I was 71
19 on the 19th of April.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're just a baby.

21 MS. RODRIGUES: (Chuckling.) Well,
22 anyway, this is what they did. Because
23 with a vaginal hysterectomy, you do not
24 have to do any cutting; that stopped
25 with the herbs and some of the other

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 things. So we have a vast history, plus
2 you know one thing wrong? You all had
3 Dr. Buzzard down there in Beaufort.

4 AUDIENCE: (Chatter, clapping and
5 laughter.)

6 MS. RODRIGUES: But then after I got
7 grown, I didn't realize you had more
8 goop doctors in Georgetown than any
9 place else. I was brought up around
10 three of them.

11 AUDIENCE: (Laughter and chatter.)

12 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Okay. We'd like to
13 welcome Sandra Ward from Little River.

14 MS. COOPER: My name is Gloria
15 Robinson Cooper. I'm not a native of
16 Conway. Actually, I am from Kingstree,
17 better known as Williamburg
18 (phonetically spelled) County. And
19 there are a lot of Gullah/Geechees or we
20 created our own. I don't know what it
21 is, but it's different. But it's, it's
22 good. We were talking earlier about
23 schools. My mother, who was 89 this
24 past January 6th, no, my mother's 88.
25 She'll be 89 this coming January. She

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 attended a school that's still, the
2 building is still up on South Carolina
3 512 in Bethesda Community. It used to
4 be called Cooper's Academy. That
5 building is still there. Children had
6 to board with other people in order to
7 attend school because they would come
8 from all over the county to go to
9 school. And I also wanted to comment on
10 the midwife. And I don't know anything
11 about midwives, but I do know my mother
12 had nine, well she had 10 pregnancies,
13 nine births, nine living children
14 together, but one child born was
15 stillbirth. And all of us except one,
16 the baby, was delivered by a midwife.
17 And that, my youngest brother was born
18 in 1958, so that kind of tell you that
19 the span from early 40s to early, well
20 mid-50s, over that span, she had a
21 midwife to deliver all of her children.
22 The only drawback to that,
23 unfortunately, I don't think any of us
24 had our birth date recorded correctly.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: That's the truth.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 MS. COOPER: And the other thing I
2 wanted to comment on: I'm, I've lived in
3 this community about three years. I've
4 spent a lot of time down in the Beaufort
5 area at the Point Center, at, in the
6 Hilton Head area in Georgetown. The
7 thing that strikes me, when I drive
8 around Conway, are the trees, the
9 beautiful oak trees. I don't, I don't
10 know, there's something about being
11 around an oak tree that, that does
12 something for me. So I don't know if
13 that's part of our heritage or the fact
14 that it's just something -- You know at
15 one time before we had street signs we
16 identified places by trees and bushes
17 and that kind of thing because those
18 things stayed. I mean they were there.
19 You know you go down past that big oak
20 street in the curve, and then you go
21 this way and that way; that's how we
22 gave directions. But there's something
23 about driving around Conway on 9th
24 Avenue and the Racepath Community and
25 you see those oak trees covering the

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 street. And with President Obama's
2 focus on, you know, green development,
3 and the focus on this particular group
4 of people trying to preserve the Gullah
5 culture, I'm just wondering: How do we
6 preserve the oak trees, if we don't
7 preserve the neighborhoods?

8 MR. WHITE: Well, in the City of
9 Conway ---

10 COMMISSIONER GERALD: It's against the law to
11 cut one down ---

12 MR. WHITE: Cut one down.

13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: --- in this state,
14 except unless you're a hurricane.

15 MR. GILLIARD: My name is Phillip
16 Gilliard and I came basically because I
17 heard Gullah/Geechee. But all my life
18 I've been identified as a Geechee. I'm
19 originally from James Island, which is
20 right outside of Charleston, South
21 Carolina. And growing up down there, I
22 grew up on a road called Solligrey,
23 (phonetically spelled), Road, and
24 there's a very familiar place out there
25 called Mosquito Beach.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Uh-huh (affirmative
2 response).
3 MR. GILLIARD: Okay. And I grew up
4 about 200 yards away from Mosquito
5 Beach. And Solligrey is very unique in
6 the sense that a lot of people lived off
7 the water, a lot of fishermans. My
8 father is 88-years old, and just on this
9 past Thursday we buried one of his
10 brother's; that on Friday would have
11 been 91-years old. But I sit down and
12 talk to my father often. And he was a
13 fisherman by trade, and he still knows
14 how to make the nets, the fishing, I
15 mean the shrimp nets that you put in
16 your mouth and cast out. So growing up
17 it was nothing for me to wake up to some
18 nice grits, fresh fish and shrimp for
19 breakfast.
20 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: That's right.
21 MR. GILLIARD: That's a normal
22 breakfast for me but ---
23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's enough.
24 MR. GILLIARD: --- I say that because
25 also there's a Backman's Seafood that

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 still exists out there today. There are
2 a lot of black-owned businesses based on
3 it being businesses that were made from
4 people just going in the creek as we
5 would call it, or in the crick. And
6 even right now out there where I grew
7 up, if you build a home you have to
8 build it on 12-foot pilings. And my
9 concern is that we're going to lose a
10 lot of that land simply because of taxes
11 now. Just like we've lost Kiawah Island
12 and Seabrook Island, John's Island, and
13 you talked about the trees. Well there
14 are certain areas on each of those
15 islands that you can drive through just
16 tunnels of trees. We call them live oak
17 trees. You got to be careful because at
18 night they'll walk out in front of you.

19 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

20 MR. GILLIARD: Okay. And one
21 particular place on Riverland Drive,
22 there's this curve. And we call it
23 dead-man curve because there's a oak
24 tree right in the curve. If you go
25 there now you'll see all the different

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 spots from different cars that have
2 crashed. But I just wanted to say that.
3 And then my mother, I heard someone; I
4 think it was you talking about
5 Kingstree. My mother grew up in
6 Williamsburg County and she's 81-years
7 old; grew up in the Warsaw Community.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Really?

9 MR. GILLIARD: And right off of 521,
10 Bloomingvale Community. She's a
11 Dunmore. And, wow. And she said they
12 raised everything on the farm. The only
13 thing that they didn't get was salt and
14 pepper. Everything else they grew at
15 home. So ---

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ask your mother about
17 the Denmark A.M.E. Church.

18 MR. GILLIARD: All right. And she
19 went to St. Mark's School off 521.
20 Yeah. Anyway, I just wanted to say that
21 because I was so intrigued when I heard
22 Geechee/Gullah because that's all I've
23 ever been identified as. This past
24 summer we had a family reunion and I met
25 one of my other aunts, well grand-aunts,

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 grand-cousins. I don't even know how
2 far down, but she was 93; very alert,
3 and she was sharing with us that the
4 Gilliard family came in through the old
5 slave mart right there in Charleston at
6 the marketplace, right down there. And
7 a lot of us went into the St. Stephens
8 Community and up in the Georgetown
9 Community also. But we did a, you know,
10 and in talking to her and tracing the
11 family, we actually go back to Sierra
12 Leone, Africa. I've never been to
13 Africa, but in Germany, because I'm
14 prior military, I met some people from
15 the Ebu Tribes and some of them were
16 from Sierra Leone. And now I'm
17 wondering if I didn't actually talk to
18 some of my cousins unknowingly. So I
19 just wanted to share that and I'm glad
20 to know that Conway now can acknowledge
21 itself as being Geechee, too, you know.

22 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

23 COMMISSIONER GERALD: They went down
24 fighting. I'm telling you.

25 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Anybody else want to
2 just share something that, any kind of
3 games that you played as children? Last
4 night at McClellanville, the old ladies
5 got up and did Little Sally Walker.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sitting in a saucer.

7 COMMISSIONER GERALD: But they didn't say put
8 your hand on your hip and let your back;
9 they said put your hand on your kimbo.
10 Now that's an African word meaning hip.
11 And it's one of those things that your
12 parents would say: Get your hand off
13 your kimbo. So we have to remember that
14 we also introduced words like okra. You
15 know we call it all the time but ---

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Wampee.

17 COMMISSIONER GERALD: --- that's our word;
18 that's an African word.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Wampee is an African
20 word.

21 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Wampee, yeah.

22 MR. RODRIGUES: I'm Andrew Rodrigues.
23 I just wanted to say a couple of things
24 in relationship to what the young lady
25 said in the back who was from

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 Williamsburg County. What people don't
2 realize, was Williamsburg County was
3 very important in relationship to the
4 indigo culture, because indigo and rice
5 is what made the Carolina Colony. And
6 the knowledge, all the knowledge of rice
7 came from Africa. The knowledge of how
8 to process that indigo that they denied
9 came from an expert Negro dye maker.
10 But in Kingstree, in Williamsburg
11 County, their method for making indigo
12 was not to use an above-ground series of
13 vats. They used in-ground vats. And
14 those in-ground vats were methods
15 brought from Africa and they used, those
16 who were working in the Naval stores or
17 turpentine, tar and pitch, would use
18 that tar to seal those in-ground indigo
19 pits. And from what I understand in
20 reading the history of Williamsburg
21 County, there are a couple of those pits
22 still existing, and we need to look at
23 those pits and try to find those pits
24 that still exist in Williamsburg County,
25 because it is a, without question,

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 something that goes back to the 1700s.

2 MS. RODRIGUES: I'd like for Sandra to
3 talk about the waterlings up in the
4 Little River area.

5 COMMISSIONER GERALD: I tried to give her a
6 lead-in earlier but she's trying to be
7 cute. Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: A.M.E.

10 MS. WARD: Good afternoon, my
11 people I love. Little River, I tell you
12 what: it is such a pleasure to know
13 where you come from, because it's sure
14 not the direction on where you're going.
15 When I met Ms. Bunny Rodrigues, better
16 known as the Gullah Woman, way back in
17 the 80s, she made it clear to me when
18 she found out that I was from Little
19 River, that I was a Geechee. Now all my
20 growing up, just like I think it was you
21 who says if somebody called you a
22 Geechee you wanted to fight? Well,
23 that's the way it was. That's the way
24 it was. That's why ignorance, if you
25 did not know, that's how you act. Now

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 we know better, so we do better. Little
2 River, the, one of the major industries
3 of Little River was the use of the
4 water, of which your livelihood came.
5 Fishing, oysters and everything,
6 everything pretty much that was living
7 in that ocean or in those creeks, you
8 made a life out of -- And strangely
9 enough, you were healthy then. But now
10 they say the red tide is out there and
11 you can't go in the creek; and you can't
12 do this and you can't do that. But
13 there is one, there is something to
14 that, in that all the subdivisions with
15 all the sewer systems that pour into
16 your creeks. You do have to be careful
17 for that, but that's how it used to be.
18 They made their boats. They made their
19 nets. They made their fishing utensils,
20 but they didn't go down to your Bass or
21 whatever it was back then to get them,
22 Bass Pro Shop; they made their own. And
23 if you talk to people who are about
24 maybe 80-years old or older, you would
25 be if, men I'm talking about pretty

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 much, Ms. Rodrigues; you'll find out
2 exactly how it was done and you will be
3 amazed. Now, in Little River Neck, I
4 don't know if many of you know about
5 Little River Neck, one way in; one way
6 out.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right.

8 MS. WARD: But that was their
9 total livelihood down there; the, what
10 was in that water. And the women were
11 just as active as the men. They would
12 go in the creek knee-deep with that mud;
13 dig up them oysters, and they would
14 provide for their families and yours,
15 too, if you came by. There was a
16 gentleman who died; that was the first
17 man that I knew that was 100-plus years
18 old that lived in Little River Neck.
19 His cure for living that long was said
20 that he walked from Little River Neck
21 out to what was old Highway 9 at that
22 time. He lived on the food from the
23 creek, and he drank a half pint of
24 liquor every day.

25 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 MS. WARD: He lived to be a
2 hundred-plus years old, but, and a lot
3 of them use that, too, for their
4 livelihood. (Laughing.) And then I
5 have to say this: We, in Little River,
6 see, what we did find out, too, is this:
7 The Gullah starts from North Carolina
8 and comes down that coast. Now, if you
9 wonder why those of us who live on that
10 North Carolina line does not have that
11 Gullah accent, it's because we got that
12 twang. We got that North Carolina twang
13 in there, so that's why we don't speak
14 as fluently as the people from
15 Georgetown or below Myrtle Beach, but
16 it's all good. We know who we are now
17 so we can appreciate that, too. Now,
18 after we left -- okay. After we got to,
19 we move out of the history of the water
20 and its provisions. The people who came
21 to the -- And it appears to me that
22 black folk always appreciated an
23 opportunity to socialize together. We
24 did not have a place to socialize
25 together except in our families, like on

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 grandmamma's porch, or grandmamma's
2 house on Sunday, or something like that.
3 But it came to the point where we were
4 granted an opportunity that it didn't
5 start out to be an opportunity.
6 Because, see, sandy land doesn't make
7 anything. And there's somebody in
8 Conway that I really need to touch bases
9 with because it's the Tyson family over
10 here that really knows. I pray some of
11 them are still living, knows exactly
12 what transpired with that Tyson Beach,
13 better known as the Black Pearl, now
14 known as Atlantic Beach. But what
15 happened, I'm told, because I was not
16 living, but I'm told that what happened
17 was: There was a gentleman who owned
18 that hundred acres of property, and it
19 is a hundred acres; believe it or not.
20 It's on east side and west side. And
21 there was a discussion down in The
22 Dunes, because you know how people used
23 to work. There's a lot of folk, and our
24 professional folk work in The Dunes. So
25 they were introduced to what was going

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 on. They all, one thing about us, too:
2 We were noseey.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Tell me. (Laughter.)

4 MS. WARD: We were noseey. We
5 aren't, we're not noseey enough these
6 days.

7 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

8 MS. WARD: We were noseey and we
9 found out that, that property had some
10 issues, some financial issues. So this
11 gentleman, as I'm told, got together
12 with some other folk to purchase this
13 property. And they did. I mean there's
14 a lot of in-between; we'll make it
15 short. And they did. Then became the
16 stomping ground known as Atlantic Beach
17 for all people of color. Also, the
18 military used to have to live on there,
19 too, because I don't care what kind of
20 services you provided outside of your
21 realm, you could not live but on the
22 inside of your realm. So the military
23 lived there; I'm told. The maids, as
24 Ms. Rodrigues talked about, everybody
25 else who worked on the beach, they came

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 to Atlantic Beach. They even provided a
2 day; can you imagine? You work all the
3 week long and they provide a day for you
4 to come over there to socialize. Many
5 of you folk got husbands and wives from
6 Atlantic Beach.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Uh-huh (affirmative
8 response).

9 MS. WARD: Atlantic Beach had
10 money running all out of everywhere.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Uh-huh (affirmative
12 response).

13 MS. WARD: There was no time where
14 you like now during the summertime,
15 there was no time where the beach wasn't
16 flourishing to its hilt.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

18 MS. WARD: And, Veronica, I'm,
19 won't talk all your time, but I will say
20 this right here: What we used to have,
21 we gonna have again. In the fashion
22 that it should be during this time. But
23 we're going to have that economic card
24 again. We're going to be who we were
25 before. We were self-supporting people.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 We provided the things that we need.
2 We're going to stop being ashamed of who
3 we are. We're going to get it printed,
4 commissioners. We gone get it printed
5 in our textbooks for our children to see
6 that they were always somebody. They
7 came from kings and queens and they
8 still can be kings and queens, but they
9 got to work at it. Or our President has
10 said to us that we can make it; we can
11 change things. He's shown that, but we
12 still got to change things. So the
13 thing, how I work so hard is: because I
14 want to see it printed in the textbooks.
15 I want them to know that we are not a
16 shameful people. We're not a lazy
17 people either. And everything that's
18 good in this country, everything was on
19 the backs of black folk.

20 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)

21 MS. WARD: Excuse me, Gullah,
22 black Gullah/Geechee people. And I'd
23 like to use, I'd like to use this one
24 example: You see that red light that's
25 out there? It wasn't during the slavery

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 time, but you know what, what's
2 different about that light since it was
3 put up the first time? Just the turn
4 signal. It's still red, yellow and
5 green. Anything we touch, it's as
6 family; it will stay. So let's go back
7 to that. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD: All right.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, wait a minute.

10 Hold it; hold it.

11 MS. WARD: Huh?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Rice Festival.

13 MS. WARD: I'm getting ready to do
14 it. I had a memory lapse. August 14th
15 and 15th, is that correct? It's the
16 third weekend in August. The Atlantic
17 Beach Gullah/Geechee Festival will be
18 happening in Atlantic Beach, South
19 Carolina. This is the ---

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: SEVENTH.

21 MS. WARD: --- seventh year. What
22 we try to do is have a festival, all
23 down the Corridor. Starting from, North
24 Carolina was first then Atlantic Beach
25 was second. Then Pawleys Island was

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 third. And then you move on down the
2 coast. So by December we will be in
3 Florida. Well, it came to our minds
4 that Atlantic Beach, nothing wasn't
5 really happening in Atlantic Beach as
6 years past in that month of February or
7 March and April; we had to go to the
8 summertime. So then so much was
9 happening, so we said that we'd have it
10 the latter, right now, have it the last
11 weekend before school started. You
12 always got to think about your family,
13 your families. You always got to think
14 about the children and your family. So
15 that will be the third weekend. On that
16 Friday we'll be at the museum. We open
17 up a museum on Friday where we have
18 artifacts and things that you really and
19 truly, I'm scared to put them out there
20 on the oceanfront for we don't have the
21 money to replace the cost of them, so
22 we'll be in the museum. And then on Sat
23 -- Ma'am?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Community Center.

25 MS. WARD: And, oh, I'm sorry.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 The Community Center has transformed
2 into Gullah/Geechee Museum that weekend.
3 And then on Saturday we will have our
4 parade and our program, our vendors.
5 And we gone just have a good old time.
6 We try to take it back like it used to
7 be on Atlantic Beach last year. And we
8 gone try again.

9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Dance on the street.

10 MS. WARD: And we dance on the
11 street. There's a slab of cement used
12 to be Cotton Club ---

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Uh-huh (affirmative
14 response).

15 MS. WARD: --- we gone try to
16 reenact the Patio. All righty. So
17 we'll see you all there. And it's a
18 free festival. All you got to do is to
19 pay for what you consume.

20 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

21 MS. WARD: Thank you so much.

22 COMMISSIONER DAISE: Excuse me. Eight more
23 minutes of engagement. There's a
24 comment made over here is to inform you
25 that in the South Carolina Curriculum

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 studies, Gullah history culture is
2 taught in the third grade and also in
3 the seventh; I believe. Not to say that
4 there's not more information that's
5 needed throughout all, but there it, a
6 start has been made.

7 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Okay. Well, we just
8 wanted to say that your comments have
9 been very good. Before we go, though,
10 and I know we got eight minutes. I want
11 to get you to call out some names of
12 dances that we have contributed to the
13 world. Very few people know that the
14 Charleston took the world by storm in
15 the 1920s, and that came from us, The
16 Catfish Road of Charleston and so think
17 of the dances. We're going to call them
18 out so that we can start making a list
19 of the -- See, we name our dances. Some
20 people just dance. But our dances have
21 names. So think about it. Mr.
22 Rodrigues is going to be our final
23 comment and then we're going to have a
24 shout-out.

25 MR. RODRIGUES: When I mentioned that

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 in the Gullah, black folks that built
2 this country, I've, and especially
3 during the Colonial period, I wasn't
4 exaggerating at all because South
5 Carolina's only commercial agricultural
6 economy, the things in that were rice
7 and indigo. They made South Carolina
8 the second wealthiest colony in British
9 Colonial America. Of the 10 wealthiest
10 people at that time, nine of them were
11 rice and indigo planters. And when you
12 look at the wealth that was brought into
13 the United States from its exports, it
14 was rice, indigo, and a little bit of
15 tobacco from up in the Chesapeake Bay
16 area. And that makes, indicated that
17 South Carolina was the economic backbone
18 of British Colonial America. And if she
19 was the backbone, the Africans were the
20 brain that provided the knowledge. They
21 were the muscle that did the work. At
22 one point, this is the low country in
23 South Carolina, had the highest earned
24 per capita income in British Colonial
25 America. At the time, 85 percent of the

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 population in that low country was
2 enslaved Gullah/Geechee people, and they
3 made up 85 percent of that per capita,
4 but not one penny of that income because
5 they weren't getting paid. Cotton
6 didn't become of any importance until
7 after 1800. So all that wealth that was
8 generated, that made this country what
9 it is, was generated from knowledge the
10 and the labor of Gullah people in the
11 land of the Native Americans because it
12 took land, knowledge and labor. And the
13 only thing that those Europeans did
14 contribute at that point in time was the
15 awareness. If they could make through
16 Gullah/Geechee slaves, produce at a high
17 economic level, production level, they
18 could become wealthy, and they in fact,
19 did indeed become wealthy.

20 COMMISSIONER GERALD: All right. We've got a
21 little bit of history and a little bit
22 of information. Queenie wants us to put
23 on record the name of her father that
24 contributed the land to the school.

25 MS. RODGERS: My great-grandfather's

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 name was Plent Rodgers.
2 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Spell it.
3 MS. RODGERS: R-O-D-G-E-R-S.
4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Plent.
5 MS. RODGERS: P-L-E-N-T, just like it
6 sounds. Plent. And my grandfather's
7 name was Willie Rodgers. And he, well
8 ever since I knew, he always had a
9 store, a country store, where everybody
10 in the neighborhood came to purchase
11 things on credit. And you had a book
12 that everybody in the neighborhood name
13 was in that bought things from my
14 grandfather on credit. And paid when
15 they, when they're crops came in, when
16 they sold tobacco. They'd say when I
17 sell my tobacco I'll come to settle up
18 with you. And so, and then back during,
19 well the end of the Depression, do you
20 remember we had to buy things with
21 stamps? And we, they called it
22 rationing. But we got a book of stamps.
23 They used to come to the store and with
24 a stamp to buy sugar and things from my
25 grandfather's father's store. But

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 people who ran out of stamps, they send
2 their children with three eggs. Three
3 eggs bought a lot of stuff back then.
4 (Chuckling.) It did. But they didn't
5 have any money. So they'd send the
6 children to the store with three eggs to
7 get whatever. But anyway, we had a
8 store and we had a motel on Atlantic
9 Beach during the time when she was
10 talking about building up Atlantic
11 Beach. My family was one of the first
12 ones that, along with -- What's his name
13 up there?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER:

15 (Inaudible/unintelligible.)

16 MS. RODGERS: Gladys Bethea and her
17 husband; he's next door, all of them.
18 We had a hotel right next to them way
19 back in the 40s.

20 COMMISSIONER GERALD: So we had a part of the
21 Gullah being a credit system: Visa,
22 Mastercharge.

23 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)

24 COMMISSIONER GERALD: We had something to do
25 with bartering.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 MS. RODGERS: His name was Willie
2 Rodgers.

3 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Willie Rodgers. Okay.
4 Well, we're coming to -- We promised to
5 only keep you 'til 8:30. We want to
6 remind you that this is the comment card
7 that we are operating from. And just, a
8 lot of you came in after the
9 introduction. But what we're going to
10 be doing in the next ---

11 COMMISSIONER DAISE: 'Til the end of June.

12 COMMISSIONER GERALD: 'Til the end of June is
13 gathering information. And as we
14 develop the story of the Corridor, a lot
15 of new stuff will be added. What we
16 envision is a Corridor that tells a
17 story as people come down it. So when
18 tourists come down they'll know Bethel
19 Church is here; they'll come. They'll
20 put money in the collection plate and we
21 will, you know, we'll get, maybe begin
22 to get a piece of the action. They will
23 know about Mr. Rodgers and that he
24 donated land. They will know about
25 people that are what we call the little

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 people, because what history does today
2 is it only talks about chosen people.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Big dogs.

4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah, the big dogs as
5 they say. So we want to do that so we
6 need, this is very important. And what
7 I've been recommending people to do: If
8 you're excited about tonight, a lot of
9 people get excited when they started
10 talking. You know how after Sunday
11 dinner when you eat a stomach full and
12 you all sit at the table because you
13 can't move?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Uh-huh (affirmative
15 response).

16 COMMISSIONER GERALD: And you just talk to
17 each other? Somebody make an investment
18 and get one of these small digital tape
19 recorders. Sit it in the middle of the
20 table and let's make the story bigger.
21 So fill this out; we would love for you
22 to fill it out before you leave because
23 one thing that, you know, as Gullah
24 people, we, you know ---

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Laughter.) Watch out;

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 watch out.

2 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Well, I'm Gullah so I

3 can do it: We don't tend to bring things

4 back, okay.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't you mail it?

6 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Ma'am?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't you mail it?

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah, free.

9 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

10 COMMISSIONER GERALD: You can mail them in

11 free.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: But what is it Sandra;

14 what am I trying to say?

15 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)

16 MS. WARD: What happens in Vegas

17 stays in Vegas.

18 COMMISSIONER GERALD: What, it's like what

19 happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.

20 AUDIENCE: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER GERALD: What happens in this

22 house stays in this house.

23 MS. RODRIGUES: I have one question to

24 ask: Since I've worked with the Resource

25 Committee before, and people have a

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 tendency to be working and getting
2 information. And once they committee
3 work is completed, they are writing
4 books. Now, how, you know, I'm a little
5 weary about giving information and I'm
6 just telling you because I've worked
7 with the other resource group, you know.

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Cynthia Pertell?

9 MS. RODRIGUES: And that's been, no,
10 when other people, you know you have a
11 tendency, and now you got up that big
12 Commission, you'll have 60, 11 colored
13 folks; 60, 11 books coming out.

14 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah. Her point is:
15 What are we going to do with this
16 information? As we are working as a
17 Commission, and our vision is to use the
18 information to document the history.
19 Now, 15 of us, there's 15 different
20 minds and I don't know. I can't say if
21 somebody may not write a book.

22 MS. RODRIGUES: Uh-huh (affirmative
23 response).

24 COMMISSIONER GERALD: But one thing that we
25 definitely are going to do is to make

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 sure that this story gets told in a
2 large way because all of us on the
3 Commission have been working in this,
4 doing this work a long time. They just
5 kind of brought us all to the table.
6 And there are lots of other people out
7 there who are not on the commission, but
8 you know, those of you in this church,
9 you know I've have been talking about
10 Gullah a long time.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Uh-huh (affirmative
12 response).

13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: And we've all been
14 working on this so they kind of brought
15 us together. So we want you to put it
16 together and so we can try to make the
17 story bigger. Now, the other thing, if
18 you can just give us some names of
19 dances. I heard the Watusi.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Shag.

21 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Shag.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Slide.

23 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Slide.

24 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)

25 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Called the Swing.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.) It was the
2 swing to the shag.
3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Camel Walk.
4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Camel Walk. The
5 Scotch.
6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Chicken.
7 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Chicken.
8 COMMISSIONER DAISE: The Mashed Potatoes.
9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Mashed Potatoes.
10 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.) The Jerk.
11 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Jerk.
12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Electric Slide.
13 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)
14 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Hitchhike.
15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Cake Walk.
16 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Twist, the Cake
17 Walk.
18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All dances out of these
19 things.
20 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah.
21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Cha Cha.
22 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Cha Cha Cha. You
23 got to say it three times, now, The Cha
24 Cha Cha.
25 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah, but Ron said it

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 two times: The Cha Cha. We said the Cha
2 Cha Cha.
3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Hustle.
4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Hustle.
5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Unintelligible.)
6 COMMISSIONER GERALD: And one dance now is in
7 the Guinness Book of Records. It came
8 right out of our culture.
9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Lindy.
10 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Electric Slide.
11 They said it's the longest group dance
12 ever.
13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What?
14 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Electric Slide.
15 They said it's been around the longest
16 ever. And it came ---
17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Huckle Buck.
18 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Huckle Buck.
19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Hully Gully.
20 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Who?
21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hully Gully.
22 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Hully Gully. You a old
23 geezer.
24 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)
25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Lindy Hop.

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Lindy Hop. The
2 Chicken Back.
3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Dog.
4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Dog.
5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Alligator.
6 COMMISSIONER GERALD: I'll show you some
7 Apache.
8 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)
9 COMMISSIONER DAISE: You can do it.
10 COMMISSIONER GERALD: The Boogie Woogie.
11 Okay. So you get the point; you get the
12 point that you see how many dances came
13 out of this small room.
14 AUDIENCE: (Chatter.)
15 COMMISSIONER GERALD: So that's what we are
16 saying. When you think about those --
17 Ma'am?
18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did you say the Twist?
19 COMMISSIONER GERALD: What did you say?
20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Belly Dance. Let
21 me see it; let me see it.
22 AUDIENCE: (Laughter and chatter.)
23 MS. RODRIGUES: And Chubby Checker's
24 out of Georgetown County.
25 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yeah, Chubby Checker,

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 the Twist, right out of Andrews.

2 MS. RODRIGUES: Huh-uh (affirmative
3 response). Spring Gulley. But he was
4 brought up ---

5 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Brought up in Andrews -
6 --

7 MS. RODRIGUES: No, no, no, no. He's
8 out of Spring Gulley.

9 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Oh, I thought it was
10 Andrews.

11 MS. RODRIGUES: Spring Gulley. And he
12 came to Georgetown; lived two houses
13 from my house. And that house, the
14 platform is still there. I have a
15 picture that he said, "To Bunny and the
16 Buck Street Gang."

17 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Oh, that's right. Buck
18 Street. You told me that. Okay. But
19 he changed the world. They said the
20 Twist was the first dance everybody
21 could do. And it was popular. But
22 anyway, my point is: I did that so that
23 you could see just how small and
24 significant in terms of our
25 contribution. So fill this out; give it

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 back to us. We have prepared a
2 reception for you and the true story of
3 Gullah. Yes, ma'am, Saundra. So you
4 get so excited; don't want to go home
5 now.

6 MS. WARD: No, I'm going to go
7 home. We going home. But I want to say
8 this because Ms. Rodrigues and Mr.
9 Rodrigues, well I worked with you all
10 but I was with them most of the time.
11 And we worked very, very hard and there
12 was one thing: I remember the very first
13 meeting at Bethel in Georgetown, there
14 was one thing that we asked of everybody
15 who was to put, the National Park
16 Service to put this together, is that
17 this story, for the very first time in
18 history, be told by the people that you
19 are speaking about. We don't need
20 anybody to tell our story, because I
21 think everybody in here, even the
22 youngest kids in here, has heard what
23 our story truly is. And so
24 Commissioners, we ask that as we get to
25 the point where it starts to be

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 published, that it is published by the
2 people, for the people. And everybody
3 else can enjoy it.

4 COMMISSIONER GERALD: That's fair enough. I
5 think that's a fair thing.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to see it if she
7 goes.

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD: So we're going to ask
9 Reverend Crummy or his designee to come
10 up and close us out and say grace. And
11 we have ---

12 COMMISSIONER DAISE: The next meeting.

13 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Oh. The next meeting
14 is going to be on Atlantic Beach on May
15 5th at the Atlantic Beach Community
16 Center, and they are very excited about
17 the meeting down there.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Were you in Georgetown
19 already?

20 COMMISSIONER GERALD: Yes. We've been to
21 Georgetown. Yeah, people in
22 McClellanville they said we have got to
23 come back. I mean they, those women
24 they danced, in the church, Reverend.

25 AUDIENCE: (Laughter.)

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter

PHONE: (843) 446-1691

E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 COMMISSIONER DAISE: To Punchanella,
2 Punchanella (phonetically spelled).

3 COMMISSIONER GERALD: They danced. So we,
4 people are having fun doing this and we
5 are glad they're having fun, but we're
6 going to move up and down the coast.
7 We're going to North Carolina. We have
8 a mayor, a Gullah mayor of a town called
9 Nebasa, who's also a commissioner. And
10 we're going down that way next, and then
11 we're going down to Georgia; I think.
12 But any time you want us back here at
13 Bethel or anywhere in Conway, get us
14 some people here so we can get this
15 story big and we'll do it.

16 **CLOSING**

17 MR. WHITE: Thank you all. And
18 again, we thank the Geechee/Gullah
19 Corridor for coming. And I thank
20 everybody for coming. All the citizens
21 of Conway: Thank you so much for being
22 with us. We're going to ask Reverend
23 Floyd to come and bless the food and
24 close us out.

25 **PRAYER**

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

1 REVEREND FLOYD: If we can stand while
2 we give thanks. Let us bow our heads.
3 COURT REPORTER: (Reverend Floyd prays.)
4 (The meeting concluded at 8:39 p.m.)
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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com

CERTIFICATE

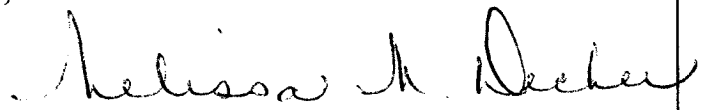
I, Melissa M. Decker, Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that there appeared before me the foregoing witness;

That said witness was sworn by me to state the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth;

That the testimony was recorded by me, by open tape and Stenomask, reduced to typewriting and proofed under my direct supervision and the foregoing consecutively numbered pages are a complete and accurate record of the testimony given at said time by said witness;

That the undersigned is neither of kin nor in anywise associated with any of the parties to said cause of action, nor any counsel thereto, and that I am not interested in the event(s) thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 1st day of July, 2009.



Melissa M. Decker
Court Reporter
Notary Public in and for
The State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 1-23-14

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Melissa M. Decker, Court Reporter
PHONE: (843) 446-1691
E-MAIL: melissadecker@sc.rr.com