

# Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AREA | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2016



## Beaufort County to Remove Debris from Public and Private Rights of Way

During its regular meeting on October 24, Beaufort County Council voted to declare a state of public health emergency in Beaufort County due to the Hurricane Matthew aftermath. Council Chairman Paul Sommerville introduced the proclamation, authorizing the County to remove debris from public and private rights of way in Beaufort County.

According to the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances, Sommerville's unilateral authority as Council Chairman limited the life of the proclamation to a maximum of 15 days, without approval by County Council. After a 10-1 vote, County Council approved the proclamation indefinitely.

"This proclamation is an essential piece to get us one step closer to a safer environment," said Sommerville. "Our goal is to restore the overall health of our entire County as quickly as possible."

The proclamation authorized Beaufort County and its contractors to remove debris from both public and private rights of way - including private roads within private communities. Beaufort County has compiled a list of local, private communities that have contacted the County with requests for assistance removing debris. As of this afternoon, there were more than 90 such communities. An estimated 1 million cubic yards of debris will need to be removed countywide. These figures do not include the Town of Hilton Head Island, which issued a separate request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The County is taking steps to provide all of our private communities with the necessary information to work with us should we receive FEMA approval to remove their debris," said Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Director / Debris Manager Jim Minor. "We urge authorized representatives from private communities seeking assistance to contact us as soon as possible to ensure that the County can include them on our list."

Property owners associations should contact the County's Emergency Management Specialist at [EMI.EMD.BeaufortDebrisInfo@tetrattech.com](mailto:EMI.EMD.BeaufortDebrisInfo@tetrattech.com) to confirm that their community receives the necessary information from the County related to debris removal.

Beaufort County is continuing its efforts to obtain debris-removal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Additional Information:

[Proclamation Declaring Public Health Emergency](#)  
[Beaufort County Code of Ordinances Section 22-28](#)