

**A RESOLUTION**

**TO URGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A GREENVILLE HOUSING COURT PILOT PROJECT IN GREENVILLE COUNTY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE INCREASED LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO RESIDENTS FACING EVICTION.**

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 the South Carolina Supreme Court authorized the creation of the first Housing Court in South Carolina in Charleston County. The 2019 Order noted a significant need to provide access to legal representation to tenants in Charleston County facing eviction. The Order created an eviction docket on specific days in certain Magistrate Courts to handle eviction cases, with legal representation being provided by various professional organizations to people facing eviction; and

**WHEREAS**, after two years of effective operation, the Charleston Housing Court was expanded to other Magistrate Courts in Charleston County. Based on the success of the expanded Housing Court in all of Charleston County, the South Carolina Supreme Court in 2023 authorized the expansion of the pilot project to every other county in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2023, Richland County became the second jurisdiction in the state to launch a Housing Court. Richland County has partnered with various legal organizations to provide professional legal services to tenants facing eviction proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, South Carolina Legal Services, which provides legal assistance to eligible low-income residents of South Carolina, has advocated the creation of a Housing Court in Greenville County to ensure tenants have legal assistance when they are facing complex eviction proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, Greenville County Council recognizes the importance of implementing a Housing Court Pilot Project in Greenville County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

Greenville County Council supports the creation of a Housing Court Pilot Project in Greenville County. Greenville County Council requests the Magistrates in the County to collaborate with organizations, including South Carolina Legal Services, to work out the logistical and staffing concerns associated with this endeavor. It is the hope of Greenville County Council that once a Housing Court Pilot Project has been established, it will eventually be expanded to all areas of Greenville County. In compliance with the 2023 South Carolina Supreme Court Order authorizing the creation of a Housing Court in every county in South Carolina, the Magistrate Court shall provide written notification to the Office of Court Administration that includes the identity of participating judges and service providers. Pursuant to the 2023 Order, participants in the housing court shall be screened for eligibility based on criteria agreed to by the Magistrate Court and the service providers. This effort will address a pressing need and help to ensure that evictions are lawful and that

residents in Greenville County are connected with financial and legal resources needed to increase housing stability.

**ADOPTED IN REGULAR MEETING THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.**

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Tripp, Chairman  
County Council

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Regina McCaskill  
Clerk to Council

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Joseph M. Kernell  
County Administrator