

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2017

Contact:

**SOUTH CAROLINA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL ISSUES
"STATEMENT OF SUPPORT" FOR SOUTH CAROLINA
CARRIAGE INDUSTRY AND THE CITY OF CHARLESTON
CARRIAGE HORSES AND MULES**

The South Carolina Horsemen's Council has just released the following "Statement of Support" regarding South Carolina Carriage Industry.

"It is not a question of whether the carriage trade is necessary to state or not. The carriage horses and mules are an iconic symbol of the city—they are part of the cultural heritage not only of South Carolina, but also of America. They provide economic benefits to multiple cities through tourism and tax revenues. Additionally, carriage horses today introduce rural animals to many people who would never have the chance to see them otherwise.

As an example, horses in Charleston are well taken care of in terms of stables, food and water, grooming, horseshoeing and veterinary care including routine monitoring. Horses and mules have their internal temperature taken after each tour and if they are too hot, they get a break to cool down. Additionally, if it is over 95 degrees outside as measured by a National Weather Service thermometer, operations are halted. The barns have fans and misters along with shade and water, and the horse's tour hours include many breaks, and at least 6 weeks of vacation a year on local farms.

Charleston carriage horses are probably the most regulated horses in the country, if not the world. They are covered by regulations, and they are watched over very closely by multiple city agencies including The City of Charleston Dept. of Tourism and Livability/City of Charleston Equine Mgr., City of Charleston Dept. of Traffic and Transportation, City of Charleston Animal Control, Charleston police

Dept. Keep in mind that these beautiful animals are also watched over very carefully and lovingly by their owners—and have been for many years. The state of South Carolina has multi-disciplinary Standards for Animal care. Additionally, each city and municipality has its own regulations and regulatory authority.

South Carolina Horsemen's Council sent delegates to Charleston and reviewed the animal health, standards of care and procedures and found them within, both legal and regulatory requirements, but also within Standards for Horse Care in South Carolina as adopted statewide. The horses are a great tourist attraction for several reasons but primarily because they ARE HORSES—not cold, impersonal pieces of metal.

It is the opinion of the South Carolina Horsemen's Council that the South Carolina Carriage Industry and the Charleston carriage horses and their owners should be allowed to continue to operate their small businesses without fear of reprisal (including from animal activists) or loss of livelihood.

The South Carolina Horsemen's Council hereby calls on all other State Horse Councils and all concerned horse groups and horsepersons throughout the country to come to the support of South Carolina and Charleston's carriage horses and the carriage industry. The world is watching to see what happens here.

The vision of South Carolina Horsemen's Council is to introduce every man, woman and child to the joys horses provide. As a part of that vision, we will provide a viable source for everyone to share the common bond of horsemanship and carry our collective interests to all communities and bodies of legislature. We further vow to bring to bear our full and collective resources to achieve these goals.

Visit <http://www.schorsementscouncil.org/> for more information.