



JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

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Statement of Mayor John Tecklenburg on City Vehicle Safety Policies and Procedures

Charleston, S.C.— *Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg gave the following statement on July 8, 2016 in City Hall Council Chambers regarding city vehicle safety policies and procedures:*

Earlier this week, it was my sad duty to inform you that Tyrone Comfort, a contract worker for our Public Service department, was killed in an accident involving a City sanitation truck.

On Wednesday, Sandy and I visited with Mr. Comfort's family and let them know that our whole city is grieving with them during this terrible time. I also assured them that, thanks to compassionate Charleston citizens, they will not have to face the additional hardship of funeral expenses in the days ahead.

At this time, an independent investigation of this tragic accident is being conducted by the South Carolina Highway Patrol, and OSHA is examining the specific safety details surrounding the incident. When we receive the results of these investigations we will share them with the family and our citizens.

Concurrent with these investigations, I have today asked a group of city officials, led by Susan Herdina of our Legal Department, as well as Police Chief Greg Mullen and Fire Chief Karen Brack, to lead a thorough, city-wide review of vehicle safety policies and procedures with the following objectives:

- First, to develop training goals and an implementation plan for a City-wide vehicle safety training program to ensure all City personnel receive best practices training.
- And second, to evaluate current processes for post-event analysis of incidents involving city vehicles, and to make recommendations to ensure that appropriate remedial steps are taken with employees to address causes of these incidents.

Public safety is the first job of government, and that includes the safety of our employees and contract workers. This review will help us ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep our citizens, employees and other workers safe, in the workplace and in the field.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jack O'Toole, Director of Communications
Media Relations/Public Information
(843) 518-3228
otoolej@charleston-sc.gov