

July 16, 2026

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Lancaster County Administration Conference Room
101 N. Main Street, Lancaster, SC 29720**

MINUTES

Members Present: Kevan Waiters, Silberio Francis Sr., George Sellers, Sussan Brown, Mark Kahn, LaShawn Sassnett, Nickie Evans, and Melissa Mendez-Neira

Members Absent: Lasandra Middleton

Visitors Present: Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council, and Lauren Hill, Deputy Clerk to Council/Executive Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Kevan Waiters called the meeting to order at approximately 6:11 p.m.

Welcome / Invocation

Silberio Francis Sr. led the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Kevan Waiters moved to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mark Kahn and seconded by Silberio Francis Sr. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Kevan Waiters moved to postpone approval of the April meeting minutes until the August meeting. The motion was made by Mark Kahn and seconded by Silberio Francis Sr. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Old Business

LaShawn Sassnett presented a draft recommendation to simplify the wording of the committee's purpose statement so that it is more community-focused and easier for both committee members and the public to understand. She explained that the goal was to establish a common understanding of community engagement among committee members and then present the revised language to County Council so that both the committee and the public have a clearer

understanding of its purpose. She also provided examples of how other municipalities define and approach community engagement.

Kevan Waiters raised concerns regarding the Lancaster County Detention Center operating without air conditioning. Silverio Francis Sr. raised concerns about the fear created within the Latino community by ICE activity and the resulting economic and social impacts on the community.

LaShawn Sassnett suggested that the County Council consider holding town hall meetings to provide additional opportunities for residents to engage with council members and share their concerns. Kevan Waiters noted that the County Council already holds monthly meetings where citizens can voice their concerns and suggested that committee members encourage residents to attend and participate in these meetings.

Susan Brown made a motion to approve the revised purpose statement for presentation to the County Council. The motion was seconded by LaShawn Sassnett and passed by majority vote.

Kevan Waiters provided an update on the volunteer recruitment process for "The Wall That Heals" and encouraged committee members to continue encouraging others to sign up to volunteer for the event.

New Business

The committee discussed recommending that the County Council conduct a community survey to better understand the current needs and priorities of Lancaster County residents.

At the next meeting, the committee plans to assign each member an organization or community group to connect with. Members will report back to the committee on issues or concerns emerging within the community based on the experiences and feedback of those organizations.

Lauren Hill suggested that, at the next meeting, the committee present its ideas to the County Council and seek input on what the Council would like to see from the committee, including which issues or concerns they would like the committee to bring forward for consideration.

Adjournment

Kevan Waiters moved to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to discuss, the Community Outreach and Engagement Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Mendez-Neira

Secretary to the Community Outreach and Engagement Advisory Committee