

FOR RELEASE: May 30, 2008

**JOSH MARTIN STEPS DOWN AS
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, PRESERVATION, AND ECONOMIC
INNOVATION**

Charleston, SC – Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. announced today that Josh Martin, Director of Planning, Preservation, and Economic Innovation, has decided to resign, effective August 15, 2008, to pursue the City & Regional Planning/Urban Design PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn Design) this fall.

Mayor Riley said, “Josh Martin is one of the most creative, hard-working, visionary people I have had the pleasure of working with and his tenure with the City of Charleston has contributed greatly to our quality of life. He has led his great staff in making remarkable advancements in the Planning, Preservation and Economic Innovation Department. Josh has been accepted into the very prestigious doctoral program in planning at the University of Pennsylvania which will begin the first of September. The University of Pennsylvania is one of the most highly regarded graduate programs in planning in America. Josh is a young man and he believed that having this opportunity to get his Ph.D. at such a fine school was one that he could not pass up. I certainly understand his decision and am very happy for Josh and proud of him.”

Josh Martin said, “After spending almost two years with the City of Charleston, thanks to the unparalleled opportunities afforded me, I feel that I have instilled a forward thinking and cogent insight on project management, affected the reformation of conventional land development regulations, and impacted both the public and private sectors of urban planning. I cannot begin to thank everyone at the City, its wonderful residents, and the countless number of people that I have encountered along the way that have made this journey so memorable. I thank you for your support and cooperation in all of my efforts with the City. Working with the wonderful staff of the Department of Planning, Preservation, and Economic Development has been challenging, exciting and fulfilling. Throughout my tenure at the City, I’ve constantly been sustained by the brilliance and commitment of the people I’ve had the honor to work with including first and foremost Mayor Riley.”

Before joining the City of Charleston, Martin had been Town Manager of

Bluffton, SC. In 2006, Martin was named Director of the Department of Planning, Preservation, and Economic Innovation to oversee the Economic Development, Planning, Neighborhood Services, Design, Development, and Preservation, Knowledge-Based Business, GIS, and LDC divisions within the Department.

Mayor Riley announced that he will conduct a national search to find Martin's successor. Josh Martin will continue to work with the City of Charleston on special projects as needed.

FOR MORE INFO:

Barbara Vaughn, Director
Media Relations/Public Information
Phone: (843) 724-3746 Fax: (843) 724-3734
Email: HYPERLINK
"mailto:vaughnb@ci.charleston.sc.us"
vaughnb@ci.charleston.sc.us

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BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION
JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR. MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

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50 BROAD STREET • CHARLESTON, S.C. 29401 • TELEPHONE (843) 724-3746 • FAX (843)

724-3734