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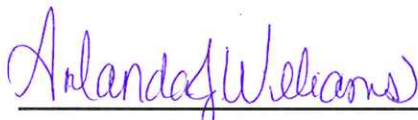
**Press Release**

**Wednesday, July 06, 2016**

As chairwoman of South Central Planning and Development Commission it has been brought to my attention the remarks made by a part time employee on a Facebook posting in reference to the recent tragedy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I stand by the Commission's ideals and practices of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all, when I state that the Facebook comments posted in no way are a reflection of the officers, members, administration and employees of SCPDC.

I am an African American female and chairwoman of the Commission who has served for many years as a member of SCPDC. This Commission prides itself in providing economic growth and community development for all citizens in the Parishes we serve, through Brown's Field re-development, Environmental Justice, Safe Communities, and financing that allows small businesses an opportunity to expand or start up. This commission has been in existence since 1972 and is representative of many demographics, races, genders, and communities.

The type of behavior exhibited in the posting has not been and never will be accepted by the Commission. The individual who made the post has been terminated. We offer our condolences to the family and the Baton Rouge community during their time of grief.



Ms. Arlanda Williams, Chairwoman