



News Release

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Tri-County Biological Science Center to Receive Federal Funding

The Tri-County Biological Science Center will receive seven million dollars in federal funding. The money is included in the federal spending bill that passed over the weekend. "We are thrilled to receive this appropriation that fulfills Council's strategic priority to enhance public safety," said Charleston County Council Chairman Herbert Sass. "I would like to thank Senator Lindsey Graham for his unwavering support in securing these funds which will have enormous impacts on our criminal justice system."

"This significant federal funding, combined with contributions from our local and state government partners, clearly shows that our leaders understand the urgent need and the immediate impact that the Tri-County Biological Science Center will have on our criminal justice system," said Eric Watson, Deputy County Administrator of Public Safety. "It will provide a practical solution to the regional forensic testing needs and will offer timely analysis services to expedite the investigative process."

"We are grateful for this funding. Having a cutting-edge regional facility to process DNA will significantly improve the criminal justice system," said Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson. "It is critical that we eliminate the evidence backlogs to bring closure to victims through just, fair convictions. Likewise, exonerating the innocent is an important aspect of DNA analysis."

The Biological Science Center will be located at 3765 Leeds Avenue in North Charleston. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2024 with final completion estimated in late 2025. Following completion of the building, the two-year accreditation process will begin.

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