Chamber Friends –

The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce has been working to navigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic right alongside the businesses and residents of the Sumter community. So far, the Sumter Chamber has been fortunate in comparison to others in the chamber of commerce industry. The Chamber’s programs and events, held through the support of our members and the Sumter community, contribute greatly not only to our body of work as a chamber of commerce but also our daily operations conducted by staff on behalf of the Sumter business community.

We want to remain transparent with our members and the Sumter community as we make the difficult decisions on whether to hold or cancel the various programs and events traditionally held throughout the coming months. The Chamber understands the seriousness of and fully supports compliance with recommended guidelines for public health and safety. Our goal is to be proactive in our planning efforts as we evaluate our options moving forward while trying to remain cautiously optimistic. This includes evaluating whether risk factors will be manageable as the program/event date approaches and determining whether to cancel or postpone. Our refund policy concerning the cancellation or postponement of programs/events can be found on our website at [www.sumterchamber.com](http://www.sumterchamber.com) .

At this time, we would like to provide the following program/event updates:

**Annual Gala** – originally scheduled for April 2, 2020 is now rescheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2020 at the La’ Piazza.

**Military Appreciation Picnic** – Typically held at the end of September, discussions are taking place with Shaw AFB as we evaluate options to determine if we can hold the event. Currently we have proposed moving the date to the end of October with the hopes of more favorable conditions.

**Porches of Sumter** – Porches is typically held the first Thursday of October. We are currently planning to move the date to the first Thursday of November, provided all the necessary pieces fall into place and more favorable conditions allow for the event to take place.

**2021 Chamber Retreat** – SAVE THE DATE! Our 50th Chamber Retreat will be held in Isle of Palms at the Wild Dunes Resort January 29-31, 2021!! Keep an eye out for additional details and registration coming soon.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the aforementioned programs/events or the status of ones not listed, please feel free to call the Chamber at (803)775-1231 and ask to speak with Chris Hardy, President & CEO, or Jillian Huckeba, VP of Programs & Events, or contact us via email at chris.hardy@sumterchamber.com or jillian@sumterchamber.com .