



We Are Columbia

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Benjamin, Richland Library, Parks and Recreation to host Books 2 Boys event at the Bellfield Center

COLUMBIA, S.C. (December 12, 2016) – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, in collaboration with the Richland Library and City of Columbia Parks and Recreation, will host the final Books 2 Boys event of the calendar year at 4 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Katheryn M. Bellfield Cultural Arts Center.

“We wanted to end the year providing books to boys in some of our more under-served neighborhoods,” said Mayor Benjamin. “Reading creates new opportunities and broadens horizons, and I want to impress upon these boys that it’s also fun and exciting.”

Mayor Benjamin will read a selection of holiday-themed books to the boys.

The book fair will provide approximately 1,500 books from which the boys can choose. The books will vary in reading levels for boys in grades 1-5 and will be set up by age group.

The purchasing and selecting of the books is being coordinated by the library. Hand-selected by librarians at Richland Library, the books are specific to topics and genres that may be of interest to boys of those ages.

The book fair events are not open to the public but will instead provide books to boys from neighborhoods near the Bellfield Center.

The Mayor’s Books 2 Boys initiative is supported by a gift from CIGNA insurance.

The initiative falls under President Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper milestone of having boys read at grade level by third grade.

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