



**CITY OF  
COLUMBIA**



**Richland  
County  
Public  
Library**



For Immediate Release

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### **Local Officials Launch One Book, One Columbia Reading Initiative**

A kickoff press conference was held today at City Hall to officially launch the One Book, One Columbia Reading Initiative. During the press conference Mayor Steve Benjamin, members of Columbia City Council, representatives from Richland County Council, the Richland County Public Library, the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods, the S.C. State Library, Central Carolina Community Foundation, Richland School District One and Lexington School District One announced the details regarding this new community reading program.

“I am so happy to be here today celebrating the written word’s ability not just to enrich our lives and broaden our perspectives, but also its power to bring us together,” Mayor Steve Benjamin said.

Citizens are encouraged to participate by reading the designated book, Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years by Sarah L. Delany and Elizabeth Delany with Amy Hill Hearth, between April 1 through May 14. During the program, numerous discussions and activities centered around the book will be held.

Columbia City Councilwoman Belinda Gergel stated, “We invite all residents to join us in a great reading experience and to start reading Having Our Say now. Our community values reading and understands the power of books to build new understandings. One Book, One Columbia will help readers from all walks of life and from every section of our community make connections around the themes of family, faith, education, and social justice.”

One Book, One Columbia is a joint effort between the City of Columbia and the Richland County Public Library for all residents of Columbia and Richland County. The effort promotes a shared reading experience throughout the community.

“The Richland County Public Library is thrilled to partner with the City and many other community organizations on this effort,” said Melanie Huggins, the library's executive director. “People are already reading the book, and the momentum is building. We encourage everyone to read Having Our Say, and then attend a program or simply discuss it with your friends or family. There are many ways to get involved.”

For more information please visit [www.myRCPL.com/onebook](http://www.myRCPL.com/onebook) or Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/OneBookOneColumbia>.

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