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Preserving America's Heritage

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President to Appoint Charleston Mayor to the ACHP

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today President Barack Obama announced his intent to appoint Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. of Charleston, South Carolina, to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) as the agency's representative for the nation's mayors.

Riley will replace Columbus, Ohio, Mayor Michael Coleman whose term of office as the mayor representative on the ACHP expired in 2013. Riley will serve a four-year term on the ACHP.

“As the mayor of Charleston, I keenly understand the importance of place to the citizens of our historic city,” Riley said. “Historic preservation champions the places where people live, work, vacation, and go about their everyday lives. Charleston has always recognized this, and I’m delighted to be able to bring my passion for preservation to the federal level. I am grateful to President Obama for this appointment. I look forward to sharing the preservation ethics developed by generations of Charlestonians.”

Riley is currently in his 10th term as mayor of Charleston, after serving in the South Carolina House of Representatives for six years. He is a graduate of the Citadel and the University of South Carolina School of Law. Riley served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 1986-87 and is currently on the Conference's Executive Committee.

Throughout his lifetime of experience in Charleston, Riley has become a leading expert on urban design and livability issues and is a frequent speaker across the country on these topics. President Obama presented Riley with the 2009 National Medal of the Arts at the White House for cultivating Charleston's historic and cultural resources to enhance public spaces, and for revitalizing urban centers throughout the nation as founder of the Mayors' Institute on City Design.

“We look forward to Mayor Riley's expertise and counsel on issues important to the federal government's historic preservation efforts in the coming months,” said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, ACHP chairman. “Charleston is a leader in historic preservation, and the mayor's personal commitment has been an important contributing factor in the city's success. We will look to Mayor Riley for guidance in representing the local government point-of-view.”

About the ACHP: *An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic properties. In addition, the ACHP has a key role in carrying out the Preserve America initiative. For more information, please visit www.achp.gov.*

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