



Georgia Public Service Commission

Contact: Tim Echols
Phone: 404-463-0214
www.psc.state.ga.us

244 Washington St S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Phone: 404-656-4501
Toll free: 1- 800-282-5813
Fax: 404-656-2341

For Immediate Release

49-17

MEDIA ADVISORY **FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER TIM ECHOLS** **Community Empowerment Workshop** **November 2, 2017 in Savannah, Georgia**

Commissioner Tim Echols and State Representative Carl Gilliard to Host Community Empowerment Workshop

What: Community Empowerment Workshop
Who: Commissioner Tim Echols, Representative Carl Gilliard, Public Service Commission
Consumer Affairs, H.E.A.T., Georgia Watch, Georgia Power Company, Hope Works, Gas
South, Salvation Army, Georgia Interfaith Power and Light,
Atlanta Gas Light, Liberty Gas, Groundswell
When: 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Thursday November 2, 2017
Where: Georgia Coastal Center
305 Fahm Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

ATLANTA – October 23, 2017 – Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols and State Representative Carl Gilliard will host a Community Empowerment Workshop on Thursday November 2, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

Commissioner Echols and Representative Gilliard have created this workshop to bring information to caseworkers, community outreach programs, churches, or any organization that facilitates assistance for Georgia's vulnerable populations. Commissioner Echols and Representative Gilliard are bringing together energy companies and nonprofits across the state to explain programs, discounts, and incentives for low-income, elderly or disabled Georgians. This three-hour event will provide contacts and information for programs with all of the organizations listed above.

"The five-stop Community Empowerment Workshops I am hosting throughout the state aspires to honor and assist the case workers who work with our most needy citizens," said Echols. "The seminar provides case managers from action agencies, churches, and organizations like the Salvation Army with needed information and tools as we approach the winter heating season."

"It is my pleasure to team up with my friend and Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols on this Workshop designed to assist those nonprofits, churches and agencies who serve the working poor. This event is very important in that it will give these entities avenues to find out what additional programs and services are available through these various utility providers. We look forward to this being one in a series of events to empower the working poor," said Representative Gilliard.

This is Commissioner Echols' second term on the Georgia Public Service Commission as he was re-elected statewide in November 2016. You can find his complete biography and photo on the Commission web site at <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/pscinfo/bios/echols.asp?tab=Tab2>.

State Representative Carl Gilliard has served in the General Assembly since May 5, 2016. He represents District 162 which is comprised of part of Chatham County. He serves on the Interstate Cooperation, State Properties and Transportation Committees. His complete biography is found at <http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/Biographies/gilliardCarl.pdf>.

This workshop is also designed to bring attention to two energy assistance programs in our state, Project SHARE, a Salvation Army program, and H.E.A.T. (Heat Energy Assistance Team). Both programs are funded through utility bill check offs and receive a majority of their donations during the holiday season. You find out more on these programs at these links: Project SHARE, salvationarmygeorgia.org with Project SHARE under the Emergency Financial Assistance heading. and H.E.A.T. <https://www.heatga.org/>

For media contacts: Mike Bradford at The Salvation Army, Project Share, 678-418-4649 and Janet Howard-Joseph at H.E.A.T., 678-406-0121.

###