

## Charleston City Councilman says Goodbye

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A Charleston city councilman ends his run in office, leaving for a new post as an elected member of the state house of representatives. Wendell Gilliard took part in his final council meeting tonight. Gilliard says he is very thankful for his time on council and proud of what he accomplished. He is confident it will be more of the same as the representative of District 111.

"I always said to myself great people should never come into these chambers, only great servants," said Gilliard.

With that statement, Wendell Gilliard ends his term as Charleston city councilman. To have an end, you must first look at the beginning. Gilliard credits much of his success to his father.

"My father was a strong figure, not only in the family but in the community, that rubbed off on me and He taught me to define yourself is to help others in need," said Gilliard.

During his final meeting, many of Gilliard's supporters took over the public comment portion. Commending his service to the community and always being there for someone in need.

Gilliard did have one final request, asking the city to continue the many programs he started. Including, Project Cool Breeze, which provides the elderly with air conditioners and fans during the summer heat.

"I don't have to go around telling people how smart I am, I have been to this college or that college, it's all about the people and that's our description as elected officials," said Gilliard.

Gilliard served ten years on council, prior to that, twenty years as a union president. He says the transition to state politics will be easy, and his constituents can rest assured they will have a voice in Columbia.

Mayor Joe Riley describes tonight's meeting as bittersweet, saying what Charleston has lost, South Carolina has gained. A special election will be held in February to elect Gilliard's replacement on Charleston City council.

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