

# DisPatches

Monthly Journal of the Division of Procurement Services  
Special Announcement



The ground is about to shift in the South Carolina procurement community. The Division of Procurement Services' Chief Procurement Officer for IT [Mike Spicer](#) is retiring at the end of the month.

Many of you on this distribution list have taken procurement training from Mike. Maybe you've argued your case before him in a hearing. Some of you have even had the good fortune to work with him (woe be to any vendors who have tried to *work around* him). Even those not in the procurement field have had their lives impacted by Mike Spicer simply by living here in the Palmetto State. He's served South Carolina's citizens in ways few people can by the very scope and breadth of the contracts he's awarded on their behalf. In a very real sense Mike is the institutional memory of our Division.

A bit of history... The General Assembly adopted the Consolidated Procurement Code (the Code) in 1981. Just a few years later, Mike came to work for the Information Technology Office as the Director of Office Systems Procurement. The date was December 17, 1984. For the next 18 years Mike awarded numerous contracts for complex technology-based systems including electronic food stamps, online lotteries, fingerprint identification, library automation, financial management, mainframe computers, court case management systems, an electronic parent locator network, and more.

By 2002, Mike was serving as Information Technology Management Officer and Chief Procurement Officer for Information Technology. In that capacity Mike oversaw the operation of ITMO and resolved procurement protests and contract controversies. Mike introduced the solutions-based request for proposals at the NIGP national conference in 2004 and has collaborated with the team at the Procurement Services Division to expand and refine that process since. Mike has worked closely with management and legal teams over time to expand and refine the procurement Code and Regulations.

Mike has been a frequent guest and speaker at South Carolina Association of Governmental Purchasing Officials (SCAGPO) and South Carolina Information Technology Directors Association (SCITDA) events and conferences. For 14 years, Mike devoted one day a month to introducing procurement officers from every corner of the State to public procurement, the relevant code of laws, and some of the best practices and nuance of acquiring information technology. Mike feels that this was his most significant and satisfying contribution as both the student and the teacher got an education over the course of those classes.

Before to coming to the Information Technology Management Office, Mike spent seven years in private industry watching technology evolve from vacuum tubes and mainframes to personal computers, cell phones and all the technology of today. Mike's basic training in technology came while serving with the United States Marine Corps' Presidential Helicopter Squadron.

Mike is a graduate of the South Carolina Executive Institute; the Governor's Excel Leadership Program, and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Limestone College. For the procurement community, Mike is a walking and talking masterclass in and of himself. We're all better in our jobs for having the good fortune to cross his path!

Thanks for everything, Mike! Congratulations and may you enjoy a well-earned, happy retirement.