

106 Coming Street Burial Ground

Community Update & How to Stay Engaged

106 Coming Street is the location of a historic public burial ground that is the documented final resting place of *thousands* of individuals—Black, white, and indigenous. This sacred space is threatened by a dorm proposal put forth by the College of Charleston (CofC). **The Protect and Respect the Bodies Coalition is a community group that was formed in response to this project.**



Where Are We in the Process?

- CofC is actively pursuing development on the site, beginning with a state environmental permit request. Without this permit, ground disturbing activity cannot take place.
- A Community Engagement Council (CEC) has been formed by CofC to provide community input; several PRB members sit on this council. The public is urged to attend CEC meetings.
- The CofC Board of Trustees has publicly stated they are NOT backing down on development plans.
- Ground Penetrating Radar scans have been done to detect the presence of human remains and artifacts below ground. Results have not yet been released.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Community Engagement Council Meetings - Start at 6 PM

March 5 @ Avery Research Center

April 2 @ Avery Research Center

May 7 @ TBD

June 4 @ TBD

Next Protect and Respect the Bodies Meeting

Thurs., March 12, 2026

5 PM to 6:30 PM

Lowcountry Center for Conservation

Sam Carlton Room,

1362 Old Towne Rd,

Charleston, SC 29407

ALL ARE WELCOME.

TALKING POINTS

Descendant Engagement must come first.

- Being a descendant is not about your bloodline. You are a descendant if you care.
- State agencies recognized the CEC as an important body of community members, but agree with the PRB that descendant engagement is a different process that CofC must facilitate.

There is no respectful way to build a dorm on top of a cemetery.

- PRB is taking its lead from internationally respected frameworks and norms.
- Case studies include: The New York African Burial Ground Project (New York), Asylum Hill Project (Mississippi), Fromelles/Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery (France)

Current Issues and Concerns

- PRB seeks assurance that the CEC is not being used to build CofC's dorms:
 - The CEC has no formal decision-making power
 - CEC members need to decide if they want to continue in the College-directed process.
- "Descendant" has not been defined by CofC nor has descendant engagement occurred
- CofC continues to treat removal of burials as a foregone conclusion
- The City of Charleston is silent and unprepared to handle their role in a project of this magnitude.

How You Can Stay Engaged

- ✓ Attend public meetings and community gatherings. Stay up to date at **<https://protectrespectbodies.com/>**
 - ✓ Share information with neighbors and community networks
 - ✓ Contact local and state officials to express your perspective