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## **City of Charleston to Host Financial Empowerment Town Hall**

**Charleston, S.C.**—The city of Charleston is partnering with local tax preparation and financial empowerment experts to host a virtual Financial Empowerment Town Hall on Monday, January 31, 2022 from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom.

**Why it matters:** Every year, residents who are eligible to have their taxes prepared for free through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program provided by the Internal Revenue Service waste money paying for tax preparation. Many others fall victim to predatory lenders and do not get what they deserve from their tax filings.

This event, sponsored by the Bank On Charleston Coalition, will provide information on free tax preparation assistance available to eligible residents, and how they can take advantage of financial services throughout the community to get the most from their tax returns.

**What to expect:** The Town Hall will feature panelists from Charleston Urban League, Origin SC, Increasing Hope, United Bank and Pinnacle Financial, who will offer additional details on the VITA Program, through which eligible individuals can have their taxes prepared for free by trained volunteers.

**How to attend:** Citizens interested in attending the virtual Town Hall can do so by joining the Zoom meeting here: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87817981452>. Those who wish to join by phone can call in by dialing 1 (301) 715-8592 and entering Meeting ID 878 1798 1452.

The event will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

**Learn more:** For more information, please contact Mindy Sturm at [sturmm@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:sturmm@charleston-sc.gov).

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