

# Locating Your Business in Rock Hill

## Rock Hill City Limits and Annexation

### What is annexation?

Annexation is when your property becomes a part of Rock Hill's City limits, and is no longer in an unincorporated area of York County. Annexation laws are different from state to state.

### My address is Rock Hill. Am I not already in the City?

Due to the nature of annexation laws in South Carolina, it is possible for properties to remain unincorporated, outside of the City limits, even though they are in the heart of the City. This can be confusing when these unincorporated properties, or "doughnut holes," are directly adjacent to properties in the City limits and subject to different rules and guidelines.

### What does it cost to be in the City limits?

While property taxes are slightly higher, water & sewer rates for City customers are about half the rates as outside the City. For an analysis of the cost/cost savings associated with annexation, please contact Erin Musiol in Planning & Development at 803-326-3869 or [erin.musiol@cityofrockhill.com](mailto:erin.musiol@cityofrockhill.com).

### What services does the City provide to businesses in the City limits?

Rock Hill services include police, fire, commercial garbage & recycling pickup, electric, water, sewer, stormwater and street lighting. The Planning & Development Department offers the Open for Business program, and the Police Department offers safety trainings for local businesses.

### My business already gets police and fire protection. How does Rock Hill's compare?

Police and fire response times are carefully monitored as part of the City's strategic planning process to ensure public safety response is provided at the highest level.

The Rock Hill Fire Department is the only fire department in York County with a Class 1 ISO rating. The Class 1 rating is the highest rating awarded and is based on factors such as response time, reliability of water sources, and dispatching. Properties inside the City may be eligible for a lower homeowner insurance premium due to the Class 1 rating.

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### ABOUT ROCK HILL

Founded in 1852 and incorporated in 1892, the City of Rock Hill is the largest city in York County and, according to the US Census, is the 5th largest city in South Carolina. The City limits encompass more than 36 square miles with an estimated population of just over 70,000 residents.

Providing quality services is at the heart of the City's 24/7/365 operations. In addition to public safety and sanitation services, the City provides reliable, safe and efficient utility services, including electric, water, sewer and stormwater.

Sports tourism has put Rock Hill on the map to an international audience. The City is home to four recreation centers, about 27 miles of public, multi-use trails, and several neighborhood and regional parks, including Olympic-caliber cycling facilities.

Because of our place in the Charlotte-metro area, we expect continued growth in Rock Hill. Strong planning principles and proactive infrastructure improvements will ensure Rock Hill is ready.

Six City fire stations are strategically placed throughout the service area and are fully staffed 24 hours a day/7 days a week. All City firefighters have basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and some are trained to the Paramedic level. City firefighters are automatically dispatched to medical emergencies within the City to support Emergency Medical Services. City firefighters are also trained to deal with hazardous material emergencies and handle various types of technical rescue, such as confined space rescue, trench rescue and swift water rescue.

The Rock Hill Police Department (RHPD) is a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA®) nationally accredited agency. The CALEA® accreditation process ensures the department is meeting an established set of professional standards. Only 10 percent of the nation's departments have received this accreditation.

The City has more police officers per resident, smaller police zones and faster response times in comparison to the County, which leads to better response times. RHPD utilizes COMPSTAT, a data-driven performance management system that allows officers to strategically use resources to prevent and respond to crime. The Police Department offers community assistance and support in the form of neighborhood empowerment, neighborhood watch, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to help keep your business safe.

### **How does commercial garbage & recycling pickup work?**

Commercial sanitation is available at a competitive price for businesses and includes recycling pickup. There is no contract for service. Call 803-329-5609 for a no-obligation price quote.

### **What is “Open for Business?”**

The Open for Business program is a service offered by the Planning and Development Department that provides personal assistance to small businesses in choosing, building or expanding their business locations. Staff works with business owners and prospective business owners to help them understand the City's building and

zoning standards, and evaluate the feasibility of opening a business in a particular location. Any business with a physical location inside the City will need zoning and building code approval before opening, and the Open for Business Program will assist with the process.

For more information about the Open for Business Program, call 803-329-5590 or visit our website at [cityofrockhill.com/openforbusiness](http://cityofrockhill.com/openforbusiness).

### **Do I need a business license?**

Businesses operating within the City limits of Rock Hill are required to pay an annual license fee to do business in the City. Annual fees are based on the rate class associated with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and the gross income from business conducted in the City. Rates are lower for businesses physically located within the City limits. For more information on Business License requirements visit [cityofrockhill.com/businesslicense](http://cityofrockhill.com/businesslicense), email [businesslicense@cityofrockhill.com](mailto:businesslicense@cityofrockhill.com), or call 803-329-7042.

### **What does Housing & Neighborhood Services offer?**

Housing & Neighborhood Services (HNS) helps form partnerships among neighborhood residents, the business community, and local government to create a safer, healthier and friendlier environment. They offer a free 10-week civics course called “Inside Rock Hill” to educate participants about the workings of City government.

### **More Information**

For more information about City departments and the services they provide, please visit our website at [cityofrockhill.com](http://cityofrockhill.com).