



## **Carriage horse heat plan gets icy reception**

### **Thermometer move to Market angers tour operators**

CHARLESTON — A new official thermometer set up in the old City Market could dictate when temperatures get too high for horses to pull tourists around downtown Charleston — news that leaves some carriage industry leaders steaming mad.

City Council agreed Tuesday night to give the new thermometer a two- to-three-month trial period during the hot summer months. Broderick Christoff, general manager of Classic Carriage Works, worries that a temperature gauge set so close to asphalt and buildings will inaccurately reflect sweltering conditions.

Carriage tour operators must take their horses off the streets when the temperature outside hits 98 degrees. They soon must check the animals' temperatures when conditions outside reach 85 degrees, an update from the current 90-degree rule.

That could spell a huge increase in the amount of time the operators spend monitoring horses. The National Weather Service reports that the temperature reaches 90 degrees or higher 55 days a year at Charleston International Airport but that it hits 85 degrees or warmer more than twice as often —117 days a year.

City officials currently rely on a thermometer on the roof of a three-story building at 113 Calhoun St. for the official reading. Council on Tuesday gave the nod to spend about \$3,800 on the new device, which will capture temperatures closer to where the animals actually work. It will be mounted approximately at horse height. The new thermometer will record readings every 17 seconds and email data as requested.