Dear Mayor and Members of the Ocean Springs Board of Aldermen,

SaveOS, a 501(c) (4) non-profit dedicated to protecting the historical character and charm of Ocean Springs for future generations encourages the City to pursue an acquisition of the property across from the Ocean Springs Yacht Club. Acquiring this property represents a unique opportunity to establish a conservation and historical-themed green space at a gateway to Ocean Springs, funded through public grants (and private monies if needed). This natural preserve can be used to highlight the importance of preserving marine habitats and nurturing sustainable aquaculture.

Ocean Springs is one of the oldest communities on the Gulf Coast. Our city is known for its historic downtown area surrounded by a quaint residential district and its noncommercial Front Beach. Front Beach is treasured by residents and visitors who enjoy its setting nested between established, quiet residential neighborhoods and a beautiful coastal backdrop, a rarity and gem on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Maintaining this setting has been a priority for those supporting SaveOS from its inception.

A recent discussion of this opportunity at a Ward 2 Community meeting drew enthusiastic support. Residents of Ocean Springs are proud of their city's history as a City of Discovery, its history of indigenous and immigrant settlement, and its strong connection to arts and a maritime economy.

The location adjacent to the Yacht Club among centuries-old oaks and native plants, like those that would have been present when the area was fished by indigenous peoples and first visited by Spanish and French explorers, represents a unique opportunity to tell our story and convey the importance of preserving culture and character of a community.

We respectfully encourage the Board to consider what can be a legacy acquisition to preserve this space.

Mike Illanne

On behalf of the Directors of SaveOS

SaveOS is a nonprofit social welfare organization organized under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions or gifts to SaveOS are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. SaveOS may engage in advocacy and lobbying consistent with its mission to promote accountable local government.