

15 Apr 2024

## Organization Announcement



We have spent the last month getting SaveOS incorporated and listed as a non-profit organization. Yes, its only been a month. Now that the organization is official, we feel it's a good time to announce why we formed and who we are. The announcement below is now on the website.

Also, if you have not read the article from the Ocean Springs Record, please check it out. There is a quote from the mayor: "Gulfport has the big harbor and Jones Park, Pascagoula has the shipyard, Biloxi has the casinos, what does Ocean Springs have to offer?" Anyone that asks that question, doesn't deserve to be mayor of Ocean Springs.

### Organization Announcement:

SaveOS.org was started when concerned citizens randomly met at City Hall, at Board of Aldermen meetings, month after month. For some of us, it started after the Cinco de Mayo shootings in downtown last May 2023. After numerous attempts to get the city to enforce current ordinances for noise nuisance, we tried to convince the city to adopt a maximum decibel sound ordinance with no success. Then we were shocked by the mayor's plan to use eminent domain via the Urban Renewal Plan (URP); the secrecy of it all really ignited us to action.

Frustrated by the lack of empathy or action by the current mayor and board, we decided to organize. The initial group consisted of a dozen or so citizens who met each other at city hall meetings; retired school teachers, small business owners, former managers in large companies, stay at home moms; all full time residents of Ocean Springs drawn together for their concern over the direction of the City. These citizens became the directors and an advisory group of SaveOS.

The proposed marina and the absurdity of commercializing Front Beach, a planned development on a toxic waste site on Pine Drive, and prioritizing aggressive development over the interest and safety of residents has given us total determination to inform all residents of what's going on. Our mayor and aldermen are not responding to the people, and we are convinced Ocean Springs residents deserve better representation.

SaveOS is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization incorporated on 17 March 2024, with 5 directors and no officers. The current directors are Ellen Hall, Jeff Hall, Michael Illanne, and Roland Creel, with one vacancy. They, along with the advisory group and many volunteers all work together as a team with no compensation, and depend solely on the dedicated volunteers who serve each ward and generous donations of our members. In just three weeks, hundreds of members joined via this website, with our goal of thousands of members by the next election in April 2025. There is total team commitment where communication is key, and by emailing [info@saveos.org](mailto:info@saveos.org), we can be reached instantly.