

Mayor Mike Favre and Members of the Bay St. Louis City Council:

On behalf of BOO in the Bay LLC, we are writing to respectfully request that the City of Bay St. Louis waive the fees associated with renting the Historic Depot grounds for our annual BOO in the Bay event.

For the past seven years, we have worked to organize BOO in the Bay as a fun, safe, and family-friendly alternative to traditional trick-or-treating. What began as a small community event has grown tremendously and now attracts a significant number of visitors to Bay St. Louis each year. We believe BOO in the Bay has become one of the largest, if not the largest, single-day events in the city in terms of attendance.

The event also provides a substantial economic benefit to our community. Visitors come not only to Old Town but also to the Depot area, supporting local restaurants, retailers, hotels, and short-term rentals. The demand for lodging surrounding the event demonstrates the impact it has on our local economy. For example, as of August 31, 2026, The Pearl Hotel informed us that they have only eight rooms remaining.

We were extremely grateful that the City waived the Historic Depot rental fees for BOO in the Bay last year, and we respectfully ask that the City consider extending that same support this year and in future years as we continue working to support the community and the Bay St. Louis Police Department.

As a small organization, BOO in the Bay LLC is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and, therefore, does not have the same ability to attract significant corporate sponsorships as many nonprofit organizations do. Nevertheless, we believe it is important for the City to know that all proceeds from our event, after expenses, are donated to our two beneficiaries: **The Children's Center for Communication and Development**, which provides free services to children with special needs along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and the **Bay St. Louis Police Department**, which assists us with our parades and helps ensure the safety and success of our event.

Our support for the City extends beyond BOO in the Bay. We have also contributed to other community events by covering expenses such as snow machines and supplies for the Christmas parade, as well as the popcorn machine rental and supplies for community outreach activities.

Unfortunately, if BOO in the Bay is required to absorb the rental fees for the Historic Depot, we will no longer be able to continue providing that additional financial support to these other City events. As organizers, we already invest a significant amount of our own personal funds, time, and resources into making BOO in the Bay successful each year. Additional facility expenses would place a considerable strain on our ability to continue supporting our beneficiaries and the broader community.

We respectfully ask the Mayor and City Council to reconsider the rental charges for the Historic Depot grounds and waive the fees for BOO in the Bay. We believe this event has become an important Bay St. Louis tradition that brings families together, promotes our

local businesses, supports our police department, benefits local charities, and attracts visitors from throughout the region.

We sincerely hope the City will continue to partner with us so that BOO in the Bay can remain a part of Bay St. Louis for many years to come. Our goal is to keep this event in our community while continuing to give back to the people and organizations that make Bay St. Louis such a special place.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued support. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this request with you at the council meeting and work together toward an agreement that allows BOO in the Bay to continue benefiting our community.

Sincerely,

Gayle Adams

President, BOO in the Bay LLC

Brett Ladner

Vice President, BOO in the Bay LLC