

Mayor Mike Favre and City Councilmen,

I am writing on behalf of BOO in the Bay LLC to express our concerns regarding the fees associated with renting the facilities at the Historic Depot for our annual event. We have been organizing BOO in the Bay for the past four years, with the aim of providing a fun and safe social distant alternative to trick-or-treating for children in the community and to see the local businesses prosper. Over the years, BOO in the Bay has grown significantly, attracting a tremendous number of spectators to the city of Bay St. Louis and benefiting local businesses not just in Old Town but in the Depot area as well. I feel confident in saying it is one of the largest if not the largest in attendance single day event in Bay St. Louis. Additionally, the hotels and short-term rentals sell out as well. For example, as of August 23, 2024, the Pearl hotel informed me they have limited rooms available for that weekend.

While we have been able to use the Historic Depot in previous years without being charged, we have recently been informed that we will now be required to pay a rental fee of \$400, as well as a \$300 cleaning deposit and a \$200 incidental deposit. As a small organization, BOO in the Bay is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and therefore does not have the ability to recruit significant sponsors like a non-profit does. However, it is important to note that all proceeds from our event, minus expenses, go towards supporting our two beneficiaries: The Children's Center for Communication and Development, which provides free services for special needs children along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and the Bay St. Louis Police Department, which assists us with parades in the city. In past years the City Council has approved donations in the amount of \$5723.00 from BOO in the Bay LLC for the Police Department.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the city reconsider the charges for renting the Historic Depot grounds for BOO in the Bay and waive the fees for our event. We believe that BOO in the Bay has become an important and valuable tradition for the community, and we hope that the city will support us in continuing to provide a fun and festive event for all residents to enjoy. We hope we can come to an agreement and continue to keep the event in this city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Sincerely,

Gayle Adams, President, BOO in the Bay LLC

Brett Ladner, Vice President, BOO in the Bay LLC