SPECIFICALLY, A PUMP STATION, WET WELL, HEADBOX STRUCTURE OUTFALL AND GENERATOR HOUSE

PROPOSED IN KNOTTS PARK AND THE ADJACENT TIDAL BASIN

We, the undersigned, are Beaufort property owners, Beaufort residents or visitors to Beaufort who are familiar with or live in "The Point", a neighborhood that is a designated National Historic Landmark District ("NHLD") in Beaufort, SC. One of the most picturesque, historically, and culturally important areas in the City of Beaufort, The Point is a priceless resource, has a rich and compelling history and is the site of daily carriage, walking, and vehicular tours.

We understand that on February 26, 2024, residents in *The Point* were made aware of a proposal to construct a pump station, wet well and headbox structure, generator station and new outfall to replace the existing system now located in the tidal basin adjacent to Knotts Park. Photographs of the existing system are attached as Exhibit A. Renderings of the proposed new construction are attached as Exhibit B.

Knotts Park and the tidal basin is the second-largest contiguous public open space in *The Point* (just smaller than " *the Green*"). It's a major focal point for Beaufort residents and tourists. We are very concerned that the visual characteristics, mass and scale of the proposed construction of the pump station, backup generator, outfall and electrical handling fail to preserve *The Point's* historical heritage and sense of place and, would result in undesirable, irreversible and damaging impacts to its appeal.

We acknowledge and support the need to repair and/or replace the existing pipe and drainage infrastructure in the streets of *The Point* as studies show significant portions of the King Street and East Street sewers are blocked or have heavy or moderate clogging, which likely results from the deterioration of the 100-year-old pipes. It further appears the East Street feeder sewer is completely blocked. (Reference Davis & Floyd presentations from August 26, 2021 and July 15, 2022. Photos were provided in the July 15, 2022 presentation).

There is not sufficient rationale or evidence to support the need for the proposed configuration of the pump station, backup generator, outfall and electrical handling facilities. Until there is a new, functional storm sewer system in place, it is premature to design and/or construct a system which Davis & Floyd acknowledges "Can't fully solve all drainage problems, especially extreme tidal issues." "Recommended storm water improvements will not prevent all potential flooding scenarios (Extreme tide & rain events)". In that regard, a pump station wasn't mentioned or proposed in either the August 26, 2021 or July 15, 2022 Davis & Floyd presentations.

The existing outfall system appears to have worked well historically, although there have been issues in recent years associated with the intermittent 'failure' of the existing tidal gate for intake/outflow of tidal waters. We support the repair or "in-kind" replacement of the existing outfall system until such time as the existing pipe and drainage infrastructure in the streets is repaired, replaced and remediated and it can be determined whether additional measures are needed.

We understand that as part of a NHLD, *The Point* is considered "highest priority", which mandates that The National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 be applied and followed with respect to both the repair and/or replacement of existing pipes and drainage infrastructure as well as the proposed pump station, wet well, headbox structure outfall and generator house. We further understand that it is a complex, lengthy and formal mitigation process directed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and requires notice to interested parties, including Historic Beaufort Foundation("HBF") as this prestigious NHLD designation needs to be protected and preserved. To our knowledge, HBF has not yet received notice on the proposed pump station and related structures. (I am confirming with HBF)

Given the above, we urge the City to delay any decision on the proposal for the construction of a pump station, backup generator, outfall and electrical handling facilities until (a) there is a thorough and complete analysis of the need for and impact of this system; and, (b) public participation in the process.

We hereby request the imposition of a moratorium on the design proposal and construction of the pump station, backup generator, outfall and electrical handling facilities until the street and drain infrastructure is addressed and it can be determined whether it is even necessary and/or if there will be any real benefit resulting from it.

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PETITION IN SUPPORT OF A MORATORIUM ON PUBLIC BUILDING STRUCTURES WITHIN THE NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT

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