

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
)	
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT)	CASE NO.: 2020-CP-07-02160
)	
BAY POINT ISLAND, LLC,)	
)	
Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	AFFIDAVIT OF RICKY WRIGHT
)	
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT AND)	
BEAUFORT COUNTY ZONING)	
BOARD OF APPEALS,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

Being duly sworn, the undersigned hereby avers and states as follows:

1. I am Ricky Wright, Vice President of the Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association ("Association"). The Association's headquarters are located on St. Helena Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina. Our mission is to advocate for the citizens of the Gullah/Geechee Nation whose livelihoods depend on the river's and ocean's resources, in particular the fish and shellfish populations along our coast.
2. The Association's members live on the Sea Islands and inland to the St. John's River from Jacksonville, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida. Along these Sea Islands and adjacent coastal areas, people from numerous African ethnic groups linked with indigenous Americans and created the unique Gullah language and traditions from which later came the name "Geechee." The Gullah/Geechee people have been considered "a nation within a nation" from the time of chattel enslavement in the

United States until they officially became an internationally recognized nation on July 2, 2000.

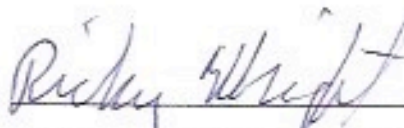
3. Since the 1600s, sea work has been one of the top industries of the Gullah/Geechee people, who have harvested fish and shellfish from Port Royal sound and surrounding waters for many generations.
4. The Association was formally organized in March of 2010 to advocate for the interests of our members. Those members consist of businesses whose profits derive from harvesting various types of seafood around the Sea Island region including oysters, fish, shrimps, and crabs, as well as sustenance fishermen and women. Some members also provide interactive educational demonstrations of Gullah/Geechee fishing traditions to groups.
5. The members of the Association are informed and aware of the Bay Point Island, LLC's proposal to construct a luxury resort on Bay Point Island in Port Royal Sound. The proposal includes 50 cottages, restaurants, spas, shops and recreational facilities on Bay Point, which the Association and its members have observed over many generations. Specifically, the Association and its members have observed that Bay Point is a very dynamic island, eroding, accreting, and shifting location dramatically over time.
6. The members of the Association are tremendously concerned about the negative impacts this proposed resort will have on the continuation of our Gullah/Geechee cultural traditions as well as the ecology of the fisheries habitat and the quality of the

ecosystem in and around Bay Point. The lives of the families in our community rely upon access to Bay Point and the healthy and productive fisheries surrounding it. Not only do the businesses rely on the fisheries resources, but they, as well as other citizens of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, literally feed their families from the waters surrounding the Sea Islands including St. Helena and Bay Point in particular.

7. Increased boat traffic to ferry tourists to Bay Point will degrade water quality, damage the available fish population in and around Port Royal Sound, and interfere with the Association's members' ability to harvest fish and shellfish. Moreover, the exclusive resort will undoubtedly restrict the Association's members' ability to access the areas necessary to sustain themselves and their livelihoods and businesses.
8. The livelihood and quality of life of the Association's members will be directly and adversely impacted if Bay Point Island, LLC, proceeds with the proposed luxury resort on this dynamic and shifting island.

Further the affiant sayeth not.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by are willfully false, I am subject to punishment by contempt.



Ricky Wright, Vice President

Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association

November 11, 2020