## **PUBLIC FORUM on 05/20/2023**

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5	LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
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10	(Revised)
	SPECIAL - JOINT RECREATION, LEGAL, AND
12	COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE MEETING
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17	The Special Joint Recreation, Legal, and
18	Commercial Real Estate Committees of the Lakefront
19	Management Authority met for a PUBLIC FORUM on The
20	Proposed Ponchartrain Beach Lease on Saturday, May
21	20, 2023, at 10:30 AM, at St Pius X Church/Gym
22	located at 6666 Spanish Fort Boulevard, New Orleans,
23	LA 70124.
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1		ATTENDANCE
2	PRESENT:	Commissioner Robert Drouant (Legal
3		Committee Chair)
4		Commissioner Sandra Thomas (Recreation
5		Committee Chair)
6		Commissioner Howard Rodgers, III
7		(Commercial Real Estate Committee Chair)
8		Commissioner Stan Brien (Recreation
9		Committee Vice-Chair)
10		Commissioner Esmond Carr
11		Commissioner Adonis Expose
12		Commissioner Wilma Heaton
13	ABSENT:	Commissioner Jennifer W. Herbert
14		Commissioner Michelle White
15		Commissioner Carlos Williams
16		Commissioner Monika Gerhart
17		Commissioner Dawn Hebert
18	STAFF:	Louis Capo - Executive Director
19		Vanessa McKee - Assistant to the Executive
20		Director
21		Adam Gulino - Director of Operations and
22		Engineering
23	ALSO PRES	SENT:
24		Gerry Metzger - LMA Counsel
25		Jeff Dye - LMA Counsel
1		

1	Attendance continued
2	
3	Al Pappalardo - LMA Real Estate Consultant
4	Tammy Joseph - Serpas Court Reporting
5	Guy Williams, Ponchartrain Beach
6	Foundation (PBF)
7	Michael Liebaert - Ponchartrain Beach
8	Foundation (PBF)
9	Zach Kupperman - Founder of Kupperman
10	Companies
11	Michael Ricci - PBF Legal Counsel
12	Marie Ormond - Resident
13	Michael Boudreaux - Resident
14	Ann Duffy - Lake Oaks Resident
15	John Skinner - LOSID
16	Darryl Boykins - Lake Oaks Resident
17	Carlton Dufrechou - Self
18	Lynn Dufrechou - Self
19	Van Robichaux - Lake Oaks Resident
20	Keegan McGuire - PonchaSurfClub
21	Ashley Haspel - President LTPOA
22	Rahmel Fuller - Mirabeau Garden
23	Baliareh Javadi - Architect/Planner,
24	Concordia
25	Kerry Cuccia - Resident

1	Attendance continued
2	
3	Karen Durand - Lake Terrace Resident
4	Lydia Stampley - Lake Terrace Resident
5	Rebecca Conwell - President/CEO of UNO
6	Research & Tech Foundation
7	Jim Dartez - Lake Terrace Resident
8	Cecilia Dartez - Lake Terrace Resident
9	Jeffrey Haigler - Lake Terrace Resident
10	Eugene Greene - New Orleans City Council
11	District D
12	Terri Glasser - Lake Terrace Resident
13	Kristi Trail - ED, Ponchartrain Conservancy
14	Mark McStravick - Lake Terrace Resident
15	Mrs. McStravick - Lake Terrace Resident
16	Gail Asprodites - Lake Terrace Resident
17	Marc Landry - Lake Terrace Resident
18	Marc Guillory - Lake Oaks Resident
19	Bill Settoon - Lake Vista Resident
20	Jerry Melchiode - Attorney, MMK
21	Judith Bordes - Lake Terrace Resident
22	Jennifer Quezergue - Lake Oaks Resident
23	David Ippolito - Lake Terrace Resident
24	Jeanne Ippolito - Lake Terrace Resident
25	Cletus Junius - Junius Ship Shape

1	Attendance continued
2	Acceliadited Collettiaed
3	Donoon Dohn Joles Coles Donidont
	Deneen Dahn - Lake Oaks Resident
4	Mary O'Neill - Lake Terrace Resident
5	Kristy Buras - Lake Terrace Resident
6	Tevis Vandergriff - Lake Terrace Resident
7	Sara Allen Harper - Concordia
8	Emmitt Chaput - Lake Terrace Resident
9	Mary Hanemann - Lake Terrace Resident
10	Tonie Corso - Lake Terrace Resident
11	Dennis Corso - Lake Terrace Resident
12	Susan Welch - LTPOA, Treasurer
13	Luke Willis - Lake Terrace Resident
14	Adam Willis - Lake Terrace Resident
15	Ray Baudier - Lake Terrace Resident
16	Jeff Montz - Lake Terrace Resident
17	Michelle Reeves - LTPOA
18	Clair Byun - New Orleans City Council
19	District A
20	Harold Matherne - Lake Oaks Resident
21	Joann Matherne - Lake Oaks Resident
22	Courtney Moran - State of Louisiana
23	District 97(Rep. Willard Matthew)
24	Representative Candace Newell - State of LA
25	District 99

1	Attendance continued
2	
3	James Bordes -Lake Terrace Resident
4	Bruce Bordes - Lake Terrace Resident
5	Anthony Morales -Lake Terrace Resident
6	Gary Sampey - Jefferson Parish Resident
7	Jonathan Rhodes - PonchaSurfClub
8	Brett Du Mortier - Lake Terrace Resident
9	Ina Davis - Lake Terrace Resident
10	Rick Davis - Lake Terrace Resident
11	Phalon Cornist - President Lake Oaks Civic
12	Assn.
13	Dennis McSevernay - Lake Terrace Resident
14	Christopher Marrero, MD - Lake Terrace
15	Resident
16	Barry Faust, MD - Lake Terrace Resident
17	Mamie Gasperecz - VP Student Affairs, UNO
18	Donna Gordon - Legis. Aide for Rep.
19	Stephanie Hilferty, LA Dist. 94
20	Conrad Luecke - Resident
21	Karen Wells - Resident
22	Rhonda Raymond - Resident
23	Sage Michael - Advocate
24	Ronnie Lamarque - Resident
25	John Klienschmidt

1	Attendance continued
2	
3	Bob Simon
4	Gary Wollereau
5	Patti Wollereau
6	Barney Corey
7	Meg Adams
8	Mr. A. Guerrero
9	Jason Mims
10	Chad Wilkins
11	Vincent Sylvain
12	Jennifer Hart
13	Ryan Clark
14	Chris Fuller
15	Chad Cothern
16	Millard Green
17	Dell Pearce
18	Ruth Hollingsworth
19	Penny McKnight
20	Stuart Hart
21	Kevin P. Conway
22	Jeanette Jaffe
23	Angelle Harrison
24	Bryan Finn
25	Jeff Winder

1	Attendance continued
2	
3	Sam Simeone
4	Irwin Langhoff
5	Rory Duplessis
6	D'Kesha Duplessis
7	Sonja Lady DeDais
8	Frank Scurlock
9	Heather West
10	Dannielle Duhe
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1	LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
2	I. Call to Order
3	Chair Howard Rodgers called the meeting to
4	order at 10:38 am.
5	MR. HOWARD RODGERS:
6	Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.
7	My name is Howard Rodgers. I am the Chairman for the
8	Commercial Real Estate Committee you can't hear me
9	back there? Usually when I address folks, it's at
10	the Senior Citizen Center, and I holler loud enough
11	so everybody can hear me but, good morning. Welcome.
12	And we are going to start the meeting. If we could
13	get Ms. Heaton to say the Pledge of Allegiance.
14	II. Pledge of Allegiance
15	Commissioner Heaton led in the Pledge of
16	Allegiance.
17	III. Roll Call
18	MR. CAPO:
19	Okay, I'm going to call the Recreation
20	Committee first. Commissioner Thomas.
21	MS. THOMAS:
22	Present.
23	MR. CAPO:
24	Commissioner Brien.
25	MR. BRIEN:

1	Here.
2	MR. CAPO:
3	Commissioner Carr.
4	MR. CARR:
5	Here.
6	MR. CAPO:
7	Commissioner Hebert.
8	MR. HEBERT:
9	(No response)
10	MR. CAPO:
11	Madam Chair, you have three members
12	present. You have a quorum today.
13	- Recreation Committee: 3 of 4 members were
14	present. A quorum was established.
15	MR. CAPO:
16	Next meeting I will call to order,
17	I'll call the roll. Okay, this is the Legal
18	Committee. Commissioner Drouant.
19	MR. DROUANT:
20	Here.
21	MR. CAPO:
22	Commissioner Herbert.
23	MR. HERBERT:
24	(No response)
25	MR. CAPO:

1	Commissioner Expose.
2	MR. EXPOSE:
3	Here.
4	MR. CAPO:
5	Commissioner White.
6	MS. WHITE:
7	(No response)
8	MR. CAPO:
9	Commissioner Williams.
10	MR. WILLIAMS:
11	(No response)
12	MR. CAPO:
13	Mr. Chairman, you have members
14	present. You do not have a quorum for the Legal
15	Committee.
16	- Legal Committee: 2 of 5 members were
17	present. No quorum.
18	MR. CAPO:
19	Next, I'll call the roll for
20	Commercial Real Estate Committee.
21	Commissioner Howard.
22	MR. RODGERS:
23	Here.
24	MR. CAPO:
25	I mean, Commissioner Rodgers.

1	Commissioner Carr.
2	MR. CARR:
3	Here.
4	MR. CAPO:
5	Commissioner Expose.
6	MR. EXPOSE:
7	Here.
8	MR. CAPO:
9	Commissioner Monika Gerhart.
10	MS. GERHART:
11	(No response)
12	MR. CAPO:
13	Commissioner Heaton.
14	MS. HEATON:
15	Present.
16	MR. CAPO:
17	Mr. Chairman, you have four members
18	present. You have a quorum for the Commercial Real
19	Estate Committee.
20	- Commercial Real Estate Committee: 4 of 5
21	members were present. A quorum was established.
22	MR. CAPO:
23	With that, we can move forward.
24	MR. RODGERS:
25	Okay. Following the Agenda, I'd like

1	to hear a Motion to Adopt the Agenda.
2	MS. HEATON:
3	I'll Move.
4	MR. EXPOSE:
5	Second.
6	MR. RODGERS:
7	It's been Moved and Second. All those
8	in favor.
9	ALL:
10	Aye.
11	MR. RODGERS:
12	All those opposed.
13	ALL:
14	(No response)
15	MR. RODGERS:
16	Alright.
17	MR. CAPO:
18	Opening comments.
19	IV. Opening Comments:
20	RECREATION CHAIR MS. THOMAS:
21	Good morning, thank you all for being
22	here. It's great to see that so many people are
23	concerned about what's going to be happening adjacent
24	to these communities. I'm a Lake Oak resident,
25	that's my full disclosure, so I am keenly focused on
1	

- 1 trying to do what's best for the communities.
- 2 Redevelopment is fine, but my focus is the residents,
- 3 that's why I'm Chair of Subdivision and Recreation.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 LEGAL CHAIR MR. DROUANT:
- Good afternoon, Robert Drouant, of the
- 7 Legal Committee. Thank you all for coming. We look
- 8 forward to hearing your expressions with the concerns
- 9 and desires are. We'll take that into consideration.
- 10 At the next meeting of the Board is to wear this out,
- 11 and thank you for coming.
- 12 COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CHAIR MR.
- 13 RODGERS:
- 14 Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.
- 15 My name is Howard Rodgers. I am the Chairman of the
- 16 Commercial Real Estate Committee -- you can't hear me
- 17 back there? We're here this morning to talk about
- 18 the proposed redevelopment of Pontchartrain Beach,
- 19 and as Mr. Capo has stated, we have a number of
- 20 individuals who are going to speak, because it
- 21 concerns you and your neighborhood -- what's going to
- 22 happen at the end of Elysian Fields.
- Now, I would like to say a few things
- 24 before we start. Number 1, I notice here on the
- 25 agenda that we're going to have a discussion about

- 1 the lease that is currently going on between the Lake
- 2 Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and the LMA. We're
- 3 not going to get into this entire piece today.
- 4 One of the reasons that Mr. Carr has
- 5 asked that the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
- 6 come and give us another presentation, they've have
- 7 already given us two. They appeared before us at
- 8 least twice. So this is going to be a third time,
- 9 and there's probably going to be a fourth attempt
- 10 because with the information that you give them
- 11 today, they're going to have to go back and put that,
- 12 and think about it, digest it, and then come back
- 13 with some additional information to go into the
- 14 lease.
- So, there's no reason to discuss this
- 16 lease today. What we are here today is to hear
- 17 comments from the neighborhood, because this involves
- 18 all of you. It involves me on the offshoot because
- 19 two of my children live in Lake Oaks. So, what
- 20 affects you, also affects me also. Okay. Time for
- 21 public comments.
- 22 VI. Public Comments Limited to (2) Minutes
- 23 MR. CAPO:
- 24 Mr. Mark Guillory.
- 25 MR. GUILLORY:

Good morning, fellow citizens, and 1 2. distinguished members of the Lakefront Management Authority. As a passionate and civic minded resident 3 of not only New Orleans, but the Lake Oaks, my name 4 is Mark Guillory. I live in Lake Oaks. 5 Mark, on Jay Street. And as a passionate member and a civic 6 minded resident of the City of New Orleans, and Lake 7 Oaks community, I'm addressing you today with deep 8 9 concerns, and opposition to the proposed development at Pontchartrain Beach. 10 11 Infrastructure is the backbone of our 12 City. And it's crucial aspect that we must address. 13 Our current roads, parking facilities, and public transportation systems are already strained under the 14 15 weight of existing demands. The purposed development with this projected influx of visitors increased 16 17 vehicular traffic, would only exacerbate the existing 18 congestion and disrupt the lives of our residents. 19 What troubles me, and our community 20 even more, is the lack of a comprehensive plan for upgrading such infrastructure to accommodate this 21 large scale commercial endeavor. A robust strategy 22 for road improvements, expanded parking facilities, 23 24 and enhanced public transportation systems is sorely 25 lacking in the presentation that we've seen of this

- 1 proposed development.
- 2 As concerned citizens we cannot allow
- 3 our community to bear the brunt of inadequate
- 4 planning and insufficient resources. Our quality of
- 5 life should never be sacrificed in pursuit of profit.
- 6 Furthermore, crime is a pressing issue
- 7 in our community every single day, and we cannot
- 8 overlook this with this proposed development. With
- 9 the increased commercial activity and the higher
- 10 number of visitors our local law enforcement, right
- 11 now, would be stretched thin, leaving our community
- 12 vulnerable to a rising criminal activities. We owe
- it to ourselves, our neighbors and our businesses to
- 14 prioritize safety and security in all of our
- 15 endeavors in our community.
- 16 While we acknowledge the environmental
- impact, we firmly believe that addressing the
- 18 infrastructure concerns should be our primary focus
- 19 at this moment. We understand the value of
- 20 Pontchartrain Beach as an ecological asset and we are
- 21 committed to its preservation, however, without a
- 22 solid foundation of infrastructure improvements, both
- 23 our community and the environment will suffer in the
- 24 long run.
- 25 Therefore, I implore each of you, as

- 1 members of the Lakefront Management Authority to
- 2 reconsider the proposed development, and engage in a
- 3 comprehensive and transparent dialogue with our
- 4 community. Your decisions hold the power to shape
- 5 the future of our City and our neighborhoods, and
- 6 it's imperative that the concerns of our community
- 7 and the aspirations of its residents --
- 8 MR. RODGERS:
- 9 Time, please.
- 10 MR. GUILLORY:
- 11 -- and business owners be taken into
- 12 consideration.
- 13 Thank you for your time and your
- 14 attention.
- 15 MR. CAPO:
- 16 Mr. Dartez.
- 17 MR. DARTEZ:
- 18 I'm Jim Dartez with Lake Terrace. I
- 19 don't think there much more could be said from what
- 20 Jay said, and I believe you should lead us, because
- 21 you put it in all the words that need to be said.
- I have a question. I don't even know
- 23 who the LMA is. Where -- how is the LMA and the
- Levee Board? Are they together? Are they the same?
- 25 Are they different?

1	MS. HEATON:
2	I'm sorry. Repeat the question.
3	MR. DARTEZ:
4	Hello. Is the LMA and the Levee Board
5	the same entity?
6	MS. HEATON:
7	I would love to give you the answer to
8	this. We actually have one of our Commissioners from
9	the Flood Protection Authority here, Bill Settoon. I
10	just want to acknowledge him because he served, I
11	believe
12	MR. DARTEZ:
13	I don't care about the Flood
14	Commission, ma'am. I want to know about the LMA and
15	the Levee Board.
16	MS. HEATON:
17	But that's what I'm trying to tell
18	you.
19	MR. DARTEZ:
20	Just
21	MS. HEATON:
22	Give me a second. The Orleans Levee
23	District is a political subdivision of the State of
24	Louisiana created in 1890.
25	MR. DARTEZ:

1	Oh, God.	
2	MS. HEATON:	
3	In 2006, there was a Constitutional	
4	Amendment passed by 80% of Louisiana that split the	
5	assets of the that political subdivision. So, you	
6	still have the Orleans Levee District who owns all of	
7	these properties. Whether it be your Interior Parks,	
8	which you care about, the marines, et cetera but the	
9	governance of the assets was split. Any assets owned	
10	by Orleans Levee District that are flood related, are	
11	controlled and managed by the Southeast Corner.	
12	Okay?	
13	Any assets that are not flood related,	
14	are managed by the Lakefront Management Authority.	
15	For a number of years it was called the Non-flood	
16	Protection Asset Lake Authority and three years ago	
17	they changed the name. So, the assets, the Orleans	
18	Levee District, it's properties that are not flood	
19	related are managed by the Lakefront Management	
20	Authority.	
21	Does that answer your question?	
22	MR. DARTEZ:	
23	No, ma'am. It doesn't.	
24	MS. HEATON:	
25	Okay.	

1		
	1	MR. DARTEZ:
	2	I want to know who the police on the
	3	Lakefront report to.
	4	MS. HEATON:
	5	They report to the Southeast Flood
	6	Protection Authority East.
	7	MR. DARTEZ:
	8	Only to them?
	9	MS. HEATON:
	10	Yes, sir.
	11	MR. DARTEZ:
	12	They are not represented here.
	13	MS. HEATON:
	14	But the Lakefront Management Authority
	15	has no jurisdiction over the Police Department.
	16	MR. DARTEZ:
	17	Alright. I got only one question.
	18	Jay said it perfectly. I don't think anything could
	19	be said better than what he said. But, I have a
	20	question. Has this decision already been made by the
	21	LMA to let this organization be on the Lakefront?
	22	MR. RODGERS:
	23	No, sir. That's why we're here.
	24	MR. DARTEZ:
	25	Well, that's what I would imagine and

1 hope for, but you said it yourself. Three meetings, 2. four meetings, how many meetings? You already know the neighborhood's opinions. I haven't heard a 3 positive word over this thing. 4 5 MR. RODGERS: Okay, well --6 MR. DARTEZ: 7 8 So --9 MR. RODGERS: 10 Alright. 11 MR. DARTEZ: 12 -- I want to know if this decision's 13 been made, why waste our time? 14 MR. RODGERS: 15 This decision has not been made, 16 that's what we are here to do. Next speaker, please. 17 MR. CAPO: 18 Mr. Corey. Barney Corey. 19 MR. COREY: Good morning. 20 Thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting. My name is 21 Barney Corey. I would like to voice my complete 22 support for the Pontchartrain Beach Foundation 23 submittal to the LMA, and I'll tell you in a couple 24 25 of words why I think this is so important.

- 1 First, putting unused property back in
- 2 the Commerce for the City, and the general public is
- 3 important. The environmental benefits of simply
- 4 cleaning up and using the beach property is another,
- 5 but more important is the Pontchartrain Beach
- 6 Foundation itself. But this project does not have to
- 7 pay a developer millions of dollars for its creation.
- 8 This is a non-profit entity. This project is not
- 9 designed to make money for a development company,
- 10 private entity, individual, or anyone else for that
- 11 matter.
- While there are proposed entrance fees
- 13 to use the facility, they are for the maintenance and
- 14 associated costs, so it can be self-funded and not
- 15 rely on monies from the City of New Orleans.
- There will be, as I understand it,
- 17 some leases for affiliated and ancillary facilities,
- 18 like food trucks rental services, et cetera, but
- 19 there is no long list of companies vying to make big
- 20 dollars off this project. You all know what this
- 21 means in the City of New Orleans.
- 22 This project began years ago. Founded
- 23 and funded by local people with a lengthy list of
- 24 successful projects which have greatly enhanced the
- 25 quality of life for people in this City. And all of

1	these people live here. They are all New Orleanians.	
2	This is an extremely beneficial undertaking	
3	for the City, and I would ask the LMA Commissioners	
4	to please support this project. Through your	
5	support, the fond memories many of us have, including	
6	myself, of the original Pontchartrain Beach will	
7	continue in new ways and for new generations of New	
8	Orleanians, and visitors to our City.	
9	MR. RODGERS:	
10	Okay. Thank you.	
11	MR. COREY:	
12	Thank you so much.	
13	UNKNOWN FEMALE:	
14	Can you give us your name and	
15	neighborhood?	
16	MR. COREY:	
17	I am currently not a resident of New	
18	Orleans. Let me be clear. I am born here, raised	
19	here, and have lived her in Commercial/Residential	
20	functions all of my life. But, I do not currently	
21	live in the City.	
22	UNKNOWN FEMALE:	
23	Thank you.	
24	MS. MCKEE:	
25	Next, we will have Mr. Harold	

1 Matherne. 2 MR. MATHERNE: 3 Don't start my timer until I speak. just want to give the handout out. 4 MS. McKEE: 5 6 Mr. Barney Corey. 7 MR. MATHERNE: 8 Here's one for you, Vanessa. 9 Well, I will get down very guickly. My name is Harold Matherne. I am a resident of Lake Oaks. 10 11 also on the Lake Oaks Security Board. 12 I did work to keep this concise. What 13 I handed out to all of you is what I call a "Lease Analysis Compliance Matrix." This contains the 14 15 elements of what we requested as we summarized all 16 the feedback from the various folks, as compared to 17 the lease and in essence, a rating score. There are 18 like ten items in there. Seven of them scored zero, 19 two scored a five, one scored a ten. So, it gives 20 you an idea of what kind of grade we see on that. 21 So, to summarize the opinion, I'm I appreciate being heard and seeing an 22 disappointed. 23 impact in the Lease Development process. I expected 24 to see more requested Lease Restrictions incorporated

25

in the lease, and I'm disappointed with the

- 1 Pontchartrain Beach Foundation.
- 2 The Pontchartrain Beach Foundation
- 3 didn't do enough to install confidence or a hard
- 4 commitment to the neighborhood impact request. There
- 5 were discussions, but never anything back in writing
- 6 like a PBF Neighborhood Contract on the things that
- 7 were termed "Not Leased Property," i.e., the fence
- 8 for Lake Oaks, the tree buffer for Lake Terrace.
- 9 They didn't answer many questions that
- 10 surfaced at the neighborhood presentations. And
- 11 that's okay. Sometimes people don't have the answers
- 12 to some questions that come up, but they should have
- 13 followed up with written replies back to the
- 14 Neighborhood Associations to close the loop. Because
- 15 of these, I'm against, and I think I speak for the
- 16 residents of Lake Oaks and Lake Terrace and Lake
- 17 Shore, that we are against recommending going forward
- 18 with this lease proposal with the Pontchartrain Beach
- 19 Foundation.
- Now, to counterbalance that, I feel
- 21 there is a consensus among everyone to restore the
- 22 beach area for public use.
- I've got a couple of more bullets --
- 24 could I do it? No? Okay. Someone else will give me
- 25 their time.

2 Go ahead. 3 MR. MATHERNE: 4 Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I couldn't 5 quite hear you, Mr. Rodgers. 6 It should be done as a recreation 7 area, similar to the rest of the Lakefront, not 8 developed as an entertainment venue. I think that's 9 the part that begins to really bristle our people's 10 concerns. 11 Clean up the land side. Perform 12 safety mediation work on the waterside bulkheads. 13 You know that rusty sheet pile is a danger. Attempt 14 to clean up under water debris, because people are 15 going to have a tendency to wade in their attempt to 16 swim. 17 Physically secure the area at night. 18 Close the gates and lock them at night, because it's 19 hard to observe what's going on in that area. Add 20 video surveillance, the day time, nighttime virtual 21 safety patrol, and then have the LMA manage and 22 maintain that property once that's remediated, like 23 the rest of the Lakefront. 24 Then, do open ended things, like 25 lifeguard, restrooms that need to be looked at.	1	MR. RODGERS:	
4 Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I couldn't 5 quite hear you, Mr. Rodgers. 6 It should be done as a recreation 7 area, similar to the rest of the Lakefront, not 8 developed as an entertainment venue. I think that's 9 the part that begins to really bristle our people's 10 concerns. 11 Clean up the land side. Perform 12 safety mediation work on the waterside bulkheads. 13 You know that rusty sheet pile is a danger. Attempt 14 to clean up under water debris, because people are 15 going to have a tendency to wade in their attempt to 16 swim. 17 Physically secure the area at night. 18 Close the gates and lock them at night, because it's 19 hard to observe what's going on in that area. Add 20 video surveillance, the day time, nighttime virtual 21 safety patrol, and then have the LMA manage and 22 maintain that property once that's remediated, like 23 the rest of the Lakefront. 24 Then, do open ended things, like	2	Go ahead.	
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24 Then, do open ended things, like	22	maintain that property once that's remediated, like	
, , ,	23	the rest of the Lakefront.	
25 lifeguard, restrooms that need to be looked at.	24	Then, do open ended things, like	
	25	lifeguard, restrooms that need to be looked at.	

1 Thank you for your time, and the ability -- yes? 2 MS. HEATON: 3 Just one question. I have a question for clarification. Your Matrix, Mr. Matherne, is 4 about the lease that the LMA -- the draft right now. 5 6 Is that what you --7 MR. MATHERNE: The current draft that was released to 8 9 the public. That is correct. I think that was dated July 22nd or so -- April, okay. I'm sorry. 10 11 MS. HEATON: 12 Yeah, I just wanted to get 13 clarification on this lease because we received from Pontchartrain Beach Foundation another version just a 14 15 day or so ago, and I just wanted clarification for 16 myself, that's all. 17 MR. MATHERNE: 18 It was the one that was officially 19 released to the public. 20 MS. HEATON: 21 And that's fine. I just wanted clarification for me. That's all. 22 23 MR. MATHERNE: 24 Yeah. Okay. 25 UNKNOWN FEMALE:

- 1 We haven't seen that lease. Have you?
- 2 The new lease.
- 3 MS. HEATON:
- 4 There is no new lease. The
- 5 Pontchartrain Beach Foundation has come back in the
- 6 last day or so, with some, with some provisions. I
- 7 haven't even read it yet, so. So what it would be
- 8 disseminated would be through the LMA. I just wanted
- 9 clarification in case, Mr. Matherne, what provision
- 10 you have, but you answered me. Thank you.
- 11 MR. MATHERNE:
- 12 Thank you. Thank you for the
- 13 indulgence.
- 14 MS. MCKEE:
- 15 Forgive me in advance. Next, we'll
- 16 have Ryan Clark. Is that correct? Mr. Clark. Mr.
- 17 Clark. Please state your name and subdivision.
- 18 MR. CLARK:
- 19 How are you guys doing? My name is
- 20 Ryan Clark. I live in the Audubon neighborhood, and
- 21 I just wanted to say that I support the project
- 22 because I spend some time at the Lakefront beach, or
- 23 the Lakefront area, so I just support that. That's
- 24 all I wanted to say.
- 25 UNKNOWN FEMALE:

1		Could I Mr. Capo, I asked for the
2	public comment	s to go after the beach presentation
3	and you said t	hat that was
4		MR. CAPO:
5		I said you could hold your comments
6	until after th	at.
7		UNKNOWN FEMALE:
8		Oh.
9		MR. CAPO:
10		You can hold your comments until after
11	that, if you'd	prefer.
12		UNKNOWN FEMALE:
13		But then this whole room must wants to
14	hear	
15		MR. CAPO:
16		That's it.
17		UNKNOWN FEMALE:
18		Do y'all want to hear the presentation
19	before you com	ment?
20		UNKNOWN:
21		Yes.
22		MR. RODGERS:
23		Is it the wish of the entire group
24	here assembled	that you'd like to hear from the Lake
25	Pontchartra	in Beach Foundation with their

1 particular --2 ALL RESPOND: 3 Yes. Yes. Yes. Chair Rodgers suspended public comments to 4 allow for the Pontchartrain Beach Foundation's 5 presentation. He advised them that they had 15 6 minutes to present. 7 VII. New Business 8 9 1. Presentation by the Pontchartrain Beach Foundation 10 11 MR. RODGERS: 12 Alright, okay. So we'll -- we'll take 13 executive privilege. We'll suspend comments right So, Lakefront Pontchartrain Beach Foundation, 14 15 would you like to start? And you have fifteen minutes for this 16 17 presentation. 18 MR. CAPO: 19 You okay with that? 20 MR. WILLIAMS: 21 Alright. Thank you. Thank you very much. Can y'all hear me? I'm Guy Williams, Chairman 22 23 of Pontchartrain Beach Foundation. 24 UNKNOWN FEMALE: 25 We can't hear you.

- 1 MR. WILLIAMS:
- 2 Hello, I'm Guy Williams, Chairman of
- 3 Pontchartrain Beach Foundation. I want to talk to
- 4 you today about what we're proposing. I remember
- 5 when I was a little kid that we had a beach. There
- 6 was a beach, a restaurant, an amusement park. It was
- 7 wonderful. It was great fun.
- 8 But in the sixties, we had a number of
- 9 problems. First was the beach water quality became
- 10 such, starting in 1962 that you couldn't swim in the
- 11 beach. First there were advisories, then
- 12 prohibitions.
- Second, the amusement park became
- 14 uncompetitive. The Batt family could not keep up
- 15 with the Disney's of the world, and so the beach, as
- 16 it was constituted, didn't work. So, the beach was
- 17 closed, and we ended up with a horrible situation.
- 18 For forty years, the beach has been basically
- 19 blighted.
- Now, the good thing is, one of the big
- 21 problems was solved. Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
- 22 did the heavy lifting of cleaning up the Lake, and
- 23 the Lake is now safe to swim. If you go on the
- 24 Conservancy website, you see the water quality. The
- 25 water quality is better at Pontchartrain Beach than

- 1 it is at Fontainebleau Beach, or at that horrible
- 2 little sliver next to Downman, the Industrial Canal
- 3 where people swim. So, the water quality is up, and
- 4 except for those few days when it's really raining,
- 5 it's safe to swim in the beach, and the Conservancy
- 6 says, "we encourage people to get out. Swimming is
- 7 one of the best ways to go, and enjoy the Lake, but
- 8 there is only one spot, and it's in Fontainebleau on
- 9 the Northshore.
- 10 So, our vision is, we take what is
- 11 there, which is blighted and abandoned, and we know
- 12 it's drug infested because we did a beach sweep. And
- 13 we have been working on this for nine months. We
- 14 worked with the Surfing Group, and we swept the
- 15 beach. We picked up the needles, the trash, the drug
- 16 debris, and also the homeless debris. So, the beach
- 17 is being used now, but it's being used in a terrible
- 18 way.
- 19 It's also being used by boater's who
- 20 can come in. But our proposal is to bring back the
- 21 beach as an essentially passive recreation. It is
- 22 not a commercial enterprise. The Foundation cannot
- 23 make money, any money. If by chance the Foundation
- 24 has a positive cash flow, it goes back into
- 25 development of the beach. And, development is not

- 1 commercial development.
- This is not a profit making business.
- 3 Running a park is not a way to make money.
- 4 Our objective is to bring back a
- 5 primarily passive beach that will allow people to
- 6 swim, to walk, to hike. To allow the people and the
- 7 visitors at the Technology Park, who work there every
- 8 day, to walk across the levee, and enjoy a picnic.
- 9 For the students at UNO to enjoy the beach. For the
- 10 residents to walk in and enjoy the beach.
- 11 So, this is not a commercial
- 12 enterprise. This is bringing back an asset. It's
- 13 creating a park. Now, we've had a number of
- 14 meetings, and what we've done is we've listened
- 15 carefully to the neighborhoods, and we have
- 16 commissioned, at our own expense, experts in all the
- 17 areas that you've addressed. Somebody talked about
- 18 the, you know, the unsafe conditions out there. We
- 19 couldn't agree more.
- 20 Our objective is to solicit Federal
- 21 Funds to clean up those unsafe conditions. Get the
- 22 sheet piling out to restore a nice, grated beach that
- 23 you can actually use safely.
- So, our proposal is to make it a safe
- 25 environment, and in order to address the different

- 1 issues, we have a master plan that we've developed.
- 2 We have a security plan. We have a parking plan. We
- 3 have Waste Management plan. We have a sound study.
- 4 We have a documentary that our locally known, award
- 5 winning documentary producer has put together. We
- 6 have a water quality expert.
- 7 We have an Urban Planning expert on
- 8 the connection of city to water, and we also did a
- 9 poll, because it's good. And, it's nice to have
- 10 public meetings, but that doesn't represent the whole
- 11 community. We did a big poll that is representative
- of all the people on the Lakefront to see what they
- 13 thought.
- 14 So what we are going to do is present
- 15 first, the Master Plan, and then go through these
- 16 different elements in response to the issues that
- 17 have been raised through the years.
- So, first is Dana Brown, who is going
- 19 to talk about the overall plan.
- 20 MS. BROWN:
- Is there a portable mike? Is there no
- 22 portable mike anymore? Can I use that? Can I use
- 23 the portable wireless mike? Is that okay?
- 24 UNKNOWN FEMALE:
- 25 If it works.

Is that working?  MS. MCKEE:  Yeah.  MS. BROWN:  Alright. I rarely need a mike, but  let's just assume I do. I appreciate everybody being here. I've seen a lot of these faces before. You've  seen a lot of what I'm going to say, so I'm not going  to make it long.  But, we did a Master Plan. It's on  our website. You can look at it in more detail. The  big thing I want to point out is the five coves. The  one on the far west, which is more educational. One  that is a motorized boats. The next to the biggest  one is Swimming Only, and then the next one is  Non-Motorized Boats, and then the far right is where  you can enter, and where you could also launch your  kayak. I would launch a pirogue, not a kayak.  And these are some views. This is  viewing west. And there's a roadway for access for  Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible)  streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian  promenade to the right of that so that everybody can  walk along the beach.	1	MS. BROWN:
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Non-Motorized Boats, and then the far right is where you can enter, and where you could also launch your kayak. I would launch a pirogue, not a kayak.  And these are some views. This is viewing west. And there's a roadway for access for Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible) streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	15	that is a motorized boats. The next to the biggest
you can enter, and where you could also launch your ly kayak. I would launch a pirogue, not a kayak.  And these are some views. This is viewing west. And there's a roadway for access for Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible) streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	16	one is Swimming Only, and then the next one is
19 kayak. I would launch a pirogue, not a kayak.  20 And these are some views. This is  21 viewing west. And there's a roadway for access for  22 Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible)  23 streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian  24 promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	17	Non-Motorized Boats, and then the far right is where
20 And these are some views. This is 21 viewing west. And there's a roadway for access for 22 Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible) 23 streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian 24 promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	18	you can enter, and where you could also launch your
viewing west. And there's a roadway for access for Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible) streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	19	kayak. I would launch a pirogue, not a kayak.
Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible)  streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian  promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	20	And these are some views. This is
23 streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian 24 promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	21	viewing west. And there's a roadway for access for
24 promenade to the right of that so that everybody can	22	Maintenance and Service only. No public (inaudible)
	23	streets. No public vehicles, and a big pedestrian
25 walk along the beach.	24	promenade to the right of that so that everybody can
	25	walk along the beach.

- 1 This is viewing west from the swimming
- 2 cove. This is looking northwest from the levee, and
- 3 you're overlooking the sand volleyball which also has
- 4 an area where potentially food trucks could come.
- 5 And that's the Swimming cove to your right.
- 6 This is looking northeast from above
- 7 an open field at the Promenade Walkway. And if you
- 8 see that little arch, that little orange arch with
- 9 the flags, that is sort of an homage to the old
- 10 Pontchartrain Beach with some of the same kinds of
- 11 logos that Batts allowed us to use. The same colors
- 12 and logos.
- 13 And this is a view from above the
- 14 Swimming cove, looking east, and you can see the
- 15 parking beyond, which is very limited there. It's a
- 16 specific, not cutting down any trees, and that's the
- 17 Master Plan.
- Next, is Security. I'm going to ask
- 19 Henry? I'll let you introduce yourself. Is that
- 20 okay?
- 21 MR. DEAN:
- That's perfectly fine. You can
- 23 intro -- no, that's okay. My name is Henry Dean.
- 24 I'm a resident of Lake Vista. I was asked to develop
- 25 a Security Plan for this project, and initially what

- 1 we looked at, I wasn't pleased with. So what I'm
- 2 offering to the Board, and hopefully for approval, I
- 3 want only Post certified police officers. I don't
- 4 want any security quards, unless it's to take tickets
- 5 or to do a head count, or something like that.
- 6 Nothing more than that.
- 7 As far as patrols, we would have three
- 8 marked police units in front of the new project.
- 9 We'd run east to west on Lakeshore Drive just south
- 10 of the circle, maybe even in a stationary spot. One
- 11 parked police unit in the parking area in front of
- 12 the beach area, and then uniformed officers on the
- 13 east and west side of the Pontchartrain complex
- 14 itself.
- In addition to that, I've suggested an
- 16 installation of a camera system. I currently work
- 17 for an entity that has allowed me to purchase over
- 18 three-hundred cameras, and I live and die by those
- 19 cameras. The technology that we have today, enhances
- 20 police patrols. You can actually do a virtual patrol
- 21 from your phone, as long as you know how to use the
- 22 technology. And, believe me, I'm not one of those
- 23 techy people, so I had to be taught several times how
- 24 to do it. But, from my house, I can look at the
- 25 Institution that I work with right now, and I can

- 1 check out certain locations. We have night vision.
- 2 We have pan, tilt, zoom capability, and there is also
- 3 an AI capabilities built into this camera system that
- 4 will allow you to -- if you are looking for a lost
- 5 child, or somebody was trying to locate their
- 6 vehicle, or their vehicle was broken into, or
- 7 something like that, you know, we can put in data
- 8 such as the color of the car, and the size of the
- 9 car, and things like that, and it could look it up
- 10 for us.
- 11 The cameras that I want to purchase
- 12 are expensive. There is nothing inexpensive
- 13 nowadays, but what's good, is that we can share this
- 14 camera system with the real-time camera center with
- 15 the City of New Orleans. I've already spoken to Ross
- 16 Bourgeois, who is the Director over there, and he's
- 17 ecstatic about it because I was looking at his map.
- 18 There's not many city cameras out here in the
- 19 Lakefront area. I believe, as far as Lake Oaks,
- 20 there's one at Mexico and Elysian Fields, and I think
- 21 the next closest one is maybe -- and I stand
- 22 corrected on that -- Harrison and Allen Toussaint,
- 23 but I'm not sure about that one. And then, where I
- 24 live on Lake Vista, we have one. That sits in front
- 25 of the entire subdivision. So, enhancing our

- 1 security surveillance would help the City of New
- 2 Orleans.
- Additionally, I have a concern about
- 4 -- this is a party atmosphere. I am concerned about
- 5 underage individuals. We're going to have to set up
- 6 a plan, and have people, probably a -- maybe a
- 7 reserve police officer that would be willing to work
- 8 with us, to check ID's. And then, we could have some
- 9 of our own spotters going around to make sure that
- 10 people aren't sneaking something in. I don't want a
- 11 child to go home inebriated and I have to explain to
- 12 their parents why they are. We're trying to add
- 13 portions of that, if possible.
- 14 The last thing that we're looking at
- 15 is, I've spoken to Captain Gutierrez in the 3rd
- 16 District, which all of you live in, including myself.
- 17 I've reached out to the Levee Board Chief of Police,
- 18 Tommy Harrington, I haven't been able to talk to him,
- 19 but I have talked to the Commander, or is he Captain
- 20 Mike Brenckle and we have spoken to the Chief of
- 21 Police over at UNO Security so that we can share
- 22 intelligence.
- 23 Anything that happens out there, I'll
- 24 share with all of the police agencies involved, and
- 25 I'll definitely share it with all the community

- 1 groups.
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 MS. BROWN:
- 4 Ellen Soll. She is going to talk to
- 5 us about traffic and parking. She is an expert on
- 6 this for many years. She just looks young. Don't
- 7 let that fool you, and I graduate from UNO as well.
- 8 Here you go, Ellen.
- 9 MS. SOLL:
- 10 Okay. Thanks Dana. My name is Ellen
- 11 Soll. I am a Senior Transportation Planner and
- 12 Senior Project Manager of a company called Lyons
- 13 Transportation Group, located here in New Orleans. I
- 14 am a resident of New Orleans.
- 15 And I'm here today to talk to you a
- 16 little bit about the parking and traffic issues that
- 17 I know are a concern for folks. So, when we talk
- 18 about transportation and traffic, the one word that
- 19 we're going to bring up a lot is "peak." We talk
- 20 about the peak periods, because we're really always
- 21 looking at the worst case scenario.
- So, the Pontchartrain Beach is, you
- 23 know, is Social/Recreational uses. We look at when
- 24 will visitors be coming to the area. So peak months,
- 25 yes. If you live in New Orleans, in Louisiana, our

- 1 peaks months for social/recreational beach activities
- 2 are actually June, July and August. Even with our
- 3 heat, and our rain, and hurricane seasons, our peak
- 4 days are Saturdays and Sundays, and our peak hours
- 5 are actually mid-day.
- 6 This is real complimentary to what we
- 7 look at a lot in the transportation world, which is
- 8 peak hour operation that are, of course, related to
- 9 our commute times for your typical work schedules,
- 10 and your typical school schedule. So, that's one of
- 11 the first things we look at.
- 12 Another thing we look at is, how the
- 13 distinct park is operating. So, the Louisiana
- 14 Department of Transportation & Development has a
- 15 (inaudible) program across the entire state. They
- 16 collect data on a three-year cycle at a permanent and
- 17 temporary locations all around the state. That
- information is published online for folks like me to
- 19 use and folks like Dana to use as we're looking at
- 20 different, how things will impact the network.
- 21 Y'all are probably familiar with
- 22 Lakeshore Drive, Elysian Fields, Leon C. Simon, some
- 23 of the four lane roads in the area, and they all have
- 24 permanent account locations on them. So, we have
- 25 such data going back over years, and as many of you

- 1 probably can imagine, if you close your eyes, these
- 2 are all kind of operating at free flow, very easy
- 3 conditions for folks who are driving. Very little
- 4 friction, and so, very little congestion. Very, what
- 5 we call, free flow operations.
- 6 So, the next thing we do is, we start
- 7 to performing analysis about how people will arrive
- 8 on this site. We use a variety of data sources to do
- 9 this. So, it is a data driven technical analysis.
- 10 We determine how people are going to get there,
- 11 right? Because some people will drive, but there are
- 12 also a lot of the people, and we have to look at
- 13 Regional statistics to see how people are traveling
- 14 for a variety of different reasons.
- And so, on the next slide, we've
- 16 developed a range of how we believe people will
- 17 arrive at the site. It's about seventy-one to
- 18 eighty-four percent arriving by vehicle. We do a
- 19 variety of calculations, algebraic calculations to
- 20 figure out how people are going to arrive at the
- 21 site, that's actually where we are going with that;
- 22 how many will need parking spots.
- 23 I think the next slide, Dana, what
- 24 we've found is that even under (inaudible) and we
- 25 look at the worst case scenario of maximum occupancy.

- 1 We, using the existing master plan, with one hundred
- 2 and eighty-seven on site spots, we know that even
- 3 under the worst case scenario, all of the parking
- 4 needs can be accommodated within a quarter mile of
- 5 the site by partnerships with UNO, using the
- 6 Kirschman Hall lot, corner lot. A little bit further
- 7 away, the beach spots is another opportunity to
- 8 accommodate those parking needs. Those agreements
- 9 would have to be worked out at a later point in time.
- I forgot to mention. We use this
- 11 quarter mile because it's a five minute walk shed,
- 12 and that is also a standard that's used for people on
- 13 foot.
- So, that is where we think people are
- 15 going to park, and how people are going to get there,
- 16 and where they will park.
- 17 So, I'm going to turn it over. Next
- 18 up is?
- 19 MR. MENZIES:
- 20 Good morning. My name is Andre
- 21 Menzies. I live in Gentilly and Venus. The Waste
- 22 Management Park is going to be handled by United
- 23 Waste (inaudible). What we've come up with and we
- 24 have three options to keep the beach clean at all
- 25 times. Also, to have proper equipment used daily.

- 1 We will dump daily.
- We're also going to have recycle cans
- 3 so that we can use the plastic, the papers to
- 4 recycle. Our job is to keep the beach area clean.
- 5 We will not go outside of our area into neighborhoods
- 6 because that would become a problem. We'd have to
- 7 assume liability if one of my trucks hit anything in
- 8 the neighborhood. We're not going to do that.
- 9 Also looking to keep a truck on site,
- 10 twenty-four hours, which holds twelve tons of
- 11 garbage. So this will never happen. We'll circle in
- 12 and out twenty-four, and we're there to keep the
- 13 beach clean at all times.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 MS. BROWN:
- 16 Thank you, sir. And you quys, we're
- 17 going to talk about the sound and acoustics. The
- 18 gentleman couldn't be here, so I have to show a
- 19 little quick video that we've created if you will --
- 20 MR. RODGERS:
- 21 May I remind you that you are now
- 22 twenty minutes past the (inaudible) presentation
- 23 fifteen minutes because --
- 24 MS. BROWN:
- 25 Yeah, we really didn't know --

1	MR. RODGERS:
2	so if you could
3	MS. BROWN:
4	how much time we were going to be
5	given. We weren't told that ahead of time. So
6	MS. THOMAS:
7	You asked for 20-minutes. Your
8	representatives asked for 20-minutes and you are
9	beyond 20-minutes. That was your request.
10	(Video is attempted to be played)
11	MS. BROWN:
12	Well, this mic worked a second ago.
13	Let me try it one more time.
14	UNKNOWN FEMALE:
15	Can't hear it.
16	MS. BROWN:
17	This still works, right. The mics not
18	working?
19	(Collective "no")
20	MS. BROWN:
21	Okay.
22	(NOTE: PRESENTATION ON SOUND AND ACOUSTICS WAS
23	INAUDIBLE. IT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO BOARD.)
24	MR. RODGERS:
25	Okay. May I make a suggestion,

- please. Since we can't get the sound, is there
  anymore to the presentation from the Lake
  Pontchartrain Basin Foundation?
- 4 MS. BROWN:
- 5 Yes.
- 6 MR. RODGERS:
- 7 Alright. How much more?
- 8 MS. BROWN:
- 9 We got Water Quality, I guess is the
- 10 next one that we would talk about.
- 11 MR. RODGERS:
- 12 Is it possible that you can stay after
- 13 the hearing, so that people, if they want to go
- 14 through this, because right now, we are infringing
- 15 upon those individuals here who came to comment, and
- 16 we did allow the Lakefront Basin Pontchartrain
- 17 Foundation to make their presentation.
- 18 My other suggestion would be, is that
- 19 you have your own community meeting and invite
- 20 everybody from the affected areas to come, and listen
- 21 and see the presentation in its entirety, so that you
- 22 can get addition comments from them.
- So, with that, I'd like to stop your
- 24 presentation and go back to the public comments from
- 25 the individuals in the neighborhood.

1	MS. BROWN:
2	Okay. This presentation wasn't
3	intended to be just for people who live here. It was
4	intended to be for everybody who wanted to come and
5	oppose or support the beach.
6	MR. RODGERS:
7	I understand that. But, we have some
8	time constraints going on here, and as I said
9	earlier, we have seen at least two of these
10	presentations. So, in all fairness to the
11	individuals who their time to come here this morning,
12	with the intent of them giving their particular story
13	of how we are going to affect their neighborhood.
14	Can I turn the lights back on, please?
15	PUBLIC COMMENTS RESUME
16	MR. CAPO:
17	Willard Grier. Willard Grier?
18	G-R-I-E-R.
19	MR. CAPO:
20	Chad Wilkins.
21	MR. WILKINS:
22	Hi. My name is Chad Wilkins, and I
23	just wanted to speak that I support the Pontchartrain
24	Beach Foundation
25	UNKNOWN:
1	

1		Where do you live? What neighborhood?
2		MR. WILKINS:
3		I live on the Northshore. I support
4	this beach her	re because we need something like this
5	here.	
6		UNKNOWN SPEAKER:
7		We are talking about the impact
8	(INAUDI	BLE RESPONSES FROM RESIDENTS)
9		MR. WILKINS:
10		We have them on the Northshore.
11		UNKNOWN FEMALE:
12		This meeting is about the impacts to
13	the neighborho	oods.
14		MR. WILKINS:
15		I'll use that one. We can use this
16	one also.	
17		UNKNOWN FEMALE:
18		This meeting is about the impacts tot
19	he neighborhoo	ods.
20		MS. MCKEE:
21		Is it William Smyth (phonetic)? Is
22	that correct?	
23		MR. SMYTH:
24		Hi, I'm William Smyth. I don't live
25	in the neighbo	orhood, but I went to Pontchartrain
1		

- 1 Beach when I was a kid. How many of you guys know
- 2 the song? (Singing) At the beach, at the beach --
- 3 UNKNOWN FEMALE:
- 4 We don't care.
- 5 MR. SMYTH:
- 6 -- at Pontchartrain Beach. You'll
- 7 have fun, you'll have fun every day of the week.
- 8 You'll love the thrilling rides, laugh till you split
- 9 your side, at Pontchartrain Beach.
- 10 My sister sings it better, they
- 11 actually reviewed it with me yesterday. Now, I wind
- 12 surf, I still (phonetic) board and mountain climb, I
- 13 play. I'm older than most of you here, and the
- 14 reason that is because, you know, their's water. You
- 15 know we have Pontchartrain Beach, one of the nicest,
- one of the biggest lakes around in the world, and you
- 17 can't access it. I mean, I wind surf, and I brought
- 18 a brand new sail, and I twirl my brand new sail on
- 19 those stupid rocks at Bonnabel so, I don't sail
- 20 there. I drive three hours in the north wind. I can
- 21 drive thirty minutes.
- 22 Now, I won't impact you. I will have
- 23 my little car, I would stop. I mean, people that
- 24 live around here, you know you're worried about
- 25 crime. But, crime is something that you could be

- 1 taken care. Traffic can be checked. These are just
- 2 problems. If you can't fix any problems, what can
- 3 you fix? You can't fix anything.
- 4 If your whole life you're worried
- 5 about, oh, we got a problem here, we don't know what
- 6 to do with it, you're going to have problems the rest
- 7 of your life. They're never going to stop. So,
- 8 let's have a fun place to play.
- 9 Okay, there will be crime. There's
- 10 always crime. There will be litter. There's always
- 11 litter. People walk down the street and spit in
- 12 front of you, you know. You just gotta have some,
- 13 you know, you gotta have some joy.
- 14 MS. McKEE:
- Mr. Ronnie Lamarque.
- MR. LAMARQUE:
- 17 Okay. Ronnie Lamarque. I live on
- 18 Lakeshore Drive. I'm honored to be here.
- 19 MS. HEATON:
- 20 Are you going to sing?
- 21 UNKNOWN FEMALE:
- Is he going to sing Pontchartrain
- 23 Beach?
- 24 MR. LAMARQUE:
- You got a hundred? (SINGS) Let me

- 1 just tell y'all something. Thank you. My CDs are
- 2 \$9.99. I'm giving them away for free.
- I was nominated and won three global
- 4 music awards at the age of 70, 77. I'm aging.
- 5 People say where have I been? I been nowhere's. I
- 6 was walking through the desert. Anyway. Like forty
- 7 years, maybe fifty-four.
- 8 Ladies and gentlemen, growing up,
- 9 seeing Hurricane Betsy hit in devastation, and
- 10 then -- and that was supposed to be on good land --
- 11 and then watching Hurricane Katrina, which I happen
- 12 to lose three dealerships, some people lost their
- 13 home. I lost about fifty million. For me to stand
- 14 before you and tell you that it is factual because,
- it's not when the storms are coming, they coming,
- 16 okay?
- 17 Now, all of the restaurants were at
- 18 the Westbank are gone, because they can't get
- 19 insurance, okay. Now that's State (inaudible) can't
- 20 get insurance. Now, all the little camps that used
- 21 to be right there by Lincoln Beach and on, they're
- 22 gone, okay. Now, here's where I'm coming from.
- 23 They're in the Lake. The airport is in the
- 24 Lake. This place is in the Lake. The Lake called
- 25 the levee on the other side. I mean, on the other

- 1 side is where we live, so storms are going to come.
- 2 Six flags, gone. They say it's going
- 3 to come back this, that, these, those, hey man, look,
- 4 all I'm here to tell you is that I'm a common guy in
- 5 a great area. When I come home for the weekends, I
- 6 like peace. I don't want to stop prosperity. I
- 7 don't want to say, oh man, something great's going to
- 8 come and all that. I don't understand when the first
- 9 storm comes, it's gone. It's going to go buddy, I'm
- 10 going to tell you that now. Forget about it. It's
- 11 going to go.
- So, I'd like to preserve our
- 13 community. I think for someone to put their money up
- 14 and try to make it, I think that's wonderful. That's
- 15 the American way. That's the way it's supposed to
- 16 be. But ladies and gentlemen, you better think about
- 17 your community and what's happening. We're talking
- 18 about crime. We're talking -- it's going to happen?
- 19 What's going to happen after you close? What about
- 20 traffic? We can't control it now. I mean, there are
- 21 so many -- and look, it's a great area, bring your
- 22 family, picnic, enjoy.
- But, I just want to let you know, I'm
- 24 honored to be here. Three or four people rang my
- 25 doorbell, and they said come on over here. Anyway,

- 1 so here I am, and it's your conscious. It's whatever
- 2 you want to do for your children's, children's,
- 3 children. That's what it's all about.
- 4 I read where they said -- well, how
- 5 many races are there? They said, there's one. It's
- 6 called the human race. You're either a believer or
- 7 you're not. I'm a believer. Amen.
- 8 MS. McKEE:
- 9 Next, we'll have Ms. Ann Duffy and Mr.
- 10 John Skinner. You both. Yes, sir.
- 11 MS. DUFFY:
- Okay, excuse me. My name is Ann
- 13 Duffy, and I live directly across the street from the
- 14 proposed Beach Project. And I do not want to hear a
- 15 whole bunch of loud noise coming from there. If it's
- 16 called music, you're going to put up a stage, and we
- 17 didn't get to hear your sound presentation. I would
- 18 have loved to have heard that. Because I really
- 19 don't want to listen to that music.
- You say you're going to stop at 9:00
- 21 at night. How much enforcement is there of stopping
- 22 loud noise at night here in New Orleans? Not much.
- Thank you.
- 24 MR. SKINNER:
- 25 My name is John Skinner. I'm a

- 1 Treasurer of Lake Oaks Security District. I also
- 2 live with Ann. She's my wife. I was really rather
- 3 interested in the presentation of the acoustics.
- 4 Just judging from their expertise, I don't think
- 5 they're going to agree on solving problems with
- 6 acoustics.
- 7 I do know one thing is that, a lot of
- 8 people got up here and said, this is great for
- 9 somebody else's back yard. I don't live here. I
- 10 live somewhere else. Well, you know that's really
- 11 wonderful for you. It's not wonderful for us.
- I'll tell you right now, we had an
- incident a few years ago called Hogs for the Cause
- 14 over at UNO. The music was so loud I could hear it a
- 15 half mile away, and people are calling me up from the
- 16 Security District, and saying, do something about it.
- 17 So, I called the Levee Board Police.
- 18 They said they didn't have the authority to do that.
- 19 I called the UNO Police, they didn't have the
- 20 authority. And I called the regular police, and they
- 21 didn't have the authority. The whole thing was
- 22 passing it back and forth until they got their way.
- 23 And in the end, when I came to the Board and talked
- to them about it, they said they were very sorry
- 25 about that.

- 1 And that is exactly what's going to
- 2 happen in the future. Because in their lease, it
- 3 says that they can go on with a musical event till
- 4 9:00 at night. I don't know about you. I know where
- 5 you live. But I don't want a big band playing
- 6 outside of my house at 9:00 at night.
- 7 So anyway, I have said all I can say,
- 8 except one other thing. Looking at that lease, it
- 9 goes on and on for thirty-seven pages, and there's a
- 10 whole lot of content in there that means nothing.
- 11 Really nothing as far as helping this neighborhood.
- 12 Especially about parking.
- 13 Up there, in that presentation, she
- 14 had a big blue area, which is right in the middle of
- 15 Lake Oaks parks, saying it was where she was going to
- 16 intend to park. In their lease, it says, you're not
- 17 supposed to park south of the Lakeshore Drive.
- So, there's a whole lot of
- 19 contradictions here. A whole lot of shelfing going
- 20 on. I've had all I can say about this.
- 21 MS. McKEE:
- Next, we're going to have Mike
- 23 Boudreaux. Mr. Boudreaux. Please state your name
- 24 and --
- 25 MR. BOUDREAUX:

- 1 Good morning. My name is Mike
- 2 Boudreaux. I do live in New Orleans. I live in Lake
- 3 Terrace a little over thirty years, and I've gone to
- 4 a number of LMA meetings, and heard the proposals.
- 5 They haven't answered a thing.
- 6 What you look at now is waste
- 7 management. Yeah, they're going to keep their place
- 8 clean, but we have problems in our neighborhood with
- 9 people coming and going. I've said numerous times
- 10 that we are creating an traffic nuisance allowing
- 11 more traffic to come through our neighborhoods.
- 12 People that we don't necessarily want in our
- 13 neighborhoods. And as you well know, they drop stuff
- 14 all over the place, and I haven't seen anything
- 15 addressed to that. They said they will not get off
- 16 of their property.
- 17 They don't care about us. They
- 18 haven't addressed anything as far as extra crime
- 19 protection for us. They're going to patrol their
- 20 area. Well, they shift that responsibility to
- 21 protect us, and they don't seem to have it, and they
- 22 don't want it.
- Thank you.
- 24 MS. McKEE:
- Next, we'll have Sally Arnault

- 1 (phonetic).
- 2 MS. ARNAULT:
- 3 Hi. I'm Sally Arnault. I live in
- 4 Lake Oaks since 1964, and I'm also on the Security
- 5 District for my neighborhood.
- 6 They talked about the water quality of
- 7 Lake Pontchartrain, and actually there's a 2022
- 8 Louisiana Water Quality Inventory of Integrated
- 9 Report for the Louisiana Department of Environmental
- 10 Quality that fulfills the requirements of the Federal
- 11 Clean Water Act, Section 305B and 303D, that
- describes how polluted Lake Pontchartrain actually
- is, and what the pollutants are, and the causations.
- 14 So Lake Pontchartrain is not as clean as they
- 15 describe. It is very polluted.
- 16 Another point I'd like to make is, one
- of the ways that they described that people will
- 18 arrive to the park, the Pontchartrain Beach is
- 19 through walking. And, one of the ways that they will
- 20 walk there is through Lake Oaks Park. And that is
- 21 why we had requested that they put a fence separating
- 22 our neighborhood from the beach which they failed to
- 23 accommodate us with. They refused. And the reason
- 24 that we requested that is to prohibit people to walk
- 25 through Lake Oaks Park, because people are not --

- 1 it's not that we don't want people to walk through
- 2 our neighborhood, they do it anyway now. But,
- 3 they'll be walking back. They'll be leaving their
- 4 trash along the way home, and then, we're stuck with
- 5 all that trash.
- 6 So, security wise, and trash wise,
- 7 we're stuck with all that mess. Not them. So that's
- 8 why I oppose this project.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 MS. McKEE:
- 11 Next, we'll have Ms. Ashley Haspel.
- MS. HASPEL:
- Good morning. For those of you who
- 14 don't know who I am, I'm the President of the Lake
- 15 Terrace Property Owners Association. I have sat
- 16 through this presentation, probably seven times.
- 17 Nothing's changed. It's the same pretty picture, and
- 18 no depth to it.
- 19 The first thing I want to do is thank
- 20 all of you on the LMA for having this hearing, since
- 21 I'm the one who asked for it so that you guys can
- 22 have transparency with all of us. So I really
- 23 appreciate that. I appreciate y'all taking a
- 24 Saturday to do this.
- I would like to ask, however, if this

- 1 deals binds next week, I would like your assurance
- 2 right now, in front of this whole room, that you will
- 3 put protections in for us on the front end. Lake
- 4 Oaks wanted a fence, I wanted trees. You guys hold
- 5 our deed restrictions that we have to follow, and we
- 6 have to answer to you, how come they don't have to
- 7 answer to us, and you're not making them answer to
- 8 us, and our requests as the people, who are the tax
- 9 paying citizens of Orleans Parish and pay a millage
- 10 to this Board.
- 11 The second thing I want to bring up is
- 12 all the people who have gotten up so far, they talk
- 13 about the beach; they look like me. And they're all
- 14 talking about the beach that they remember. Well,
- 15 remember the beach was segregated, and the white
- 16 people went to Pontchartrain Beach, and the black
- 17 people went to Lincoln Beach.
- 18 MS. McKEE:
- 19 Next, we'll have Van Robichaux.
- 20 MR. ROBICHAUX:
- 21 Good morning. I'm Van Robichaux. I
- 22 live in Lake Oaks. I'm the Vice-President of Lake
- 23 Oaks Civic Association. I'm also an attorney.
- I want to commend the Board for trying to get
- 25 this project developed. It sat dormant for too long,

- and you're getting it developed with somebody else's
- 2 money, which is good because you don't have any
- 3 money, and that's what the problem is. You don't
- 4 have the money for police protection. You don't have
- 5 the money to clean up the trash. To regulate the
- 6 traffic in the neighborhood. To solve the crime
- 7 problems.
- 8 Forty years ago, the beach had free
- 9 parking for everyone. Adequate. There's no more
- 10 parking there anymore. There are buildings there
- 11 now. So, if free parking is not provided, or paid
- 12 for by the project, to UNO, for people to park, they
- are going to park in our neighborhood.
- 14 Forty years ago, NOPD was well-funded.
- 15 The Levee Board Police had a robust operation.
- 16 Anybody that tried to park along the Lakefront at
- 17 night knows that. They were all over you. That
- 18 doesn't exist anymore. It is impossible to cross the
- 19 street from the Lakeshore Drive to the beach area,
- 20 without getting run over by a car right now. It's
- 21 dangerous to ride your bike along there.
- These traffic problems, and these
- 23 security problems, and these trash problems, and
- these parking problems have to be addressed in this
- lease. If they are not addressed, where it's made

- 1 the responsibility of the developers to take care of
- 2 all of this in their lease, and they breach it if
- 3 they don't, then we're going to be calling you and
- 4 saying, "what are you going to do about it?" And
- 5 you're going to say, "well, it's not us, it's them,
- 6 and we don't have the money to solve these problems."
- 7 So make them do it. Put it in the
- 8 lease, and make sure that if they breach it, the
- 9 lease is over. And, you're not going to fight about
- 10 it in Court for five years. Put a clause in there
- 11 that says that this it is immediately going to
- 12 arbitration, and we're going to solve this, and we're
- 13 going to move on. That's what needs to be done. It
- 14 needs to be in the lease.
- This is a 15 acre prime piece of real
- 16 estate that they're getting for \$500 dollars a month.
- 17 They're going to get Federal Funds? Go get some more
- 18 Federal Funds to take care of all of these problems,
- 19 and then put this stuff in the lease.
- Thank you.
- 21 MS. McKEE:
- 22 Next, we'll have Frank McTravic
- 23 (phonetic). Is that correct? I'm sorry.
- 24 MR. MCTRAVIC:
- 25 Thank you all. Thank you for having a

1	meeting today.
2	UNKNOWN FEMALE:
3	Can you repeat your name, sir?
4	MR. MCTRAVIC:
5	Frank McTravic. I live in Lake
6	Terrace.
7	UNKNOWN FEMALE:
8	Okay.
9	MR. MCTRAVIC:
10	So much has been said today, and I
11	think you can draw the line between the residents of
12	the area versus those who are not residents of the
13	area. And I commend Chair Thomas who is here, she
14	says, for the residents of the area, and
15	neighborhoods of the area, and that's who the bulk of
16	us are here for, because I started with my wife and
17	others of the group last year listening to
18	presentations, and we're hearing the same
19	presentations. Except now, we've got video.
20	I think if the Board would look at how
21	dysfunctional the whole presentation from the other
22	side has been, you'll understand our frustration. It
23	has been like pulling teeth to get any information
24	from them, what's going to happen.
25	The idea of Lake Pontchartrain, of

- 1 what it was back in the days of singing songs,
- 2 doesn't exist. And it's not going to exist. I have
- 3 begged you to go to Wikipedia and look at the old
- 4 Pontchartrain Park, and when the Batt's had it. That
- 5 is not going to happen again. If you want to believe
- 6 that, then you just need to go back the video.
- 7 Because it's not reality.
- 8 There are so many problems with what
- 9 we are dealing with. The crime. The trash. The
- 10 things that we've been talking about for -- since
- 11 what? November, October of last year, and still
- 12 don't have the answers for.
- We don't know where the funding is
- 14 coming from, but you're not going to discuss that.
- 15 We're not going to discuss the lease. The funding is
- 16 still a great mystery, but we do know that they only
- 17 -- the \$500 dollars seems to be a recurring theme
- 18 with the people who want to do this.
- The idea of a traffic study, which was
- 20 a very academic, nicely done, student from UNO's
- 21 traffic study, doesn't have too much to do with the
- 22 reality of our neighborhoods. We failed to talk
- 23 about St. Bernard Parish and Pratt -- I think we did
- 24 mention Elysian Fields. All those feeders coming
- 25 into Lakeshore. That's where the traffic is going to

- 1 be coming from. I invite you to come down on the
- 2 weekends and listen to what, what it is like, just
- 3 the traffic coming through the neighborhood. And
- 4 that's just the beginning. You're wanting to bring
- 5 more thousands of people.
- The noise, the acoustics? Come on,
- 7 man. We heard Jazz Fest. Sitting in the back yard.
- 8 You're telling me, you can muffle the sound from the
- 9 Lake at three blocks away, when we can hear Jazz
- 10 Fest? It's not going to happen. It's not going to
- 11 happen.
- 12 The idea that the presentation that this is not
- 13 a money making proposition, that running a Park is
- 14 not a money making proposition. The Disney
- 15 Corporation would be interested to hear those
- 16 numbers, because they seem to be doing pretty well
- 17 running Parks, Amusement Parks.
- But this whole thing has been a
- 19 problem that we can't solve going to meetings and
- 20 hearing presentations that are not forthcoming with
- 21 real answers.
- 22 So I appreciate y'all's time. I
- 23 appreciate your meeting, but it's the people who live
- 24 here who are the ones who are opposed to this going
- 25 any further.

1	Thank you.
2	MS. McKEE:
3	Next, we'll have Gus Bemis (phonetic).
4	MS. McKEE:
5	Dennis McSevernay:
6	MR. MCSEVERNAY:
7	Good morning, everybody, or is it
8	afternoon? I'm Dennis McSevernay. I'm a resident of
9	Lake Terrace, and a past President of the Lake
10	Terrace Property Owners Association.
11	I spent my career at the University of
12	New Orleans. I'm a Sociologist, so I was a Professor
13	of Sociology, Dean of College of Liberal Arts, and
14	Administrator when I retired.
15	Since retiring, I do community work.
16	I'm both local and international. My commitment to
17	myself after Katrina was to rebuild my University,
18	rebuild my house, and rebuild my City.
19	I'm an Urban Leaguer, and I support
20	responsible growth, that falls through economic
21	inclusion. I have concerns about this project. I
22	mean, the Lakefront neighborhoods are unique. Green
23	space, tree canopy, high quality of life for a broad
24	variety of people and citizens of our City.
25	The draft of the lease does little to
I	

1	maintain the quality of life. You talk about walking
2	along the Lakefront in the evening. How do you do
3	that if you have to stop and pay a fee? And, what
4	are the fees? I mean, to have 910 fees at peak, and
5	have three police cars, another officer checking
6	ID's, twenty-four hour trash, how much are they going
7	to charge? And will it keep out people that don't
8	have the kinds of means that I am fortunate to have?
9	I go back to our very first speaker
10	before the presentation, and I almost ask that he be
11	allowed to come up again and do the closing. He was
12	spot on with what he had to say. We want something.
13	We want growth. But, we want inclusivity, and
14	responsibility to the neighborhoods.
15	Thank you.
16	MS. McKEE:
17	Next one up is Mr. Phalen Cornist.
18	MR. CORNIST:
19	Can you save it for last?
20	MS. McKEE:
21	Mr. Gary Wollereau.
22	MR. WOLLEREAU:
23	Thank you for the opportunity to
24	speak. My name is Gary Wollereau. I live in Lake
25	Terrace. Have for the past nine years.

- 1 I think that the concept of the
- 2 development of Pontchartrain Beach is wonderful. I
- 3 think the concept boards that the Pontchartrain Beach
- 4 Foundation have put together are lovely, and it would
- 5 be great to have something like that.
- 6 But then, the devil gets into the
- 7 details. One of the details that really concerns me
- 8 is the number 900. They are counting on 900 people a
- 9 day during peak into that park to cover most of their
- 10 expenses. But if you look at their concept boards,
- 11 when they put together the revenue stream against
- 12 expenses, they're talking about 900 people times
- 13 \$17.00 dollars per adult, and \$11.00 dollars per
- 14 child. Generating about \$1.3 million in sales,
- 15 against a million four in expenses. So right there,
- 16 they were going to run at a deficient of over
- 17 \$100,000 dollars a year.
- Now, the admission fees have been
- 19 lowered because of, I guess, community outrage, and
- 20 so now, it's dropped from \$10 to \$5. That's a 45%
- 21 drop in their revenue. So now, instead of \$100,000
- 22 shortfall a year, they're going to be realizing a
- 23 \$700,000 a year shortfall. How are they going to be
- 24 able to maintain this park at any quality level
- 25 running a \$700,000 a year deficit? I don't know of

- 1 very many bankers that would support that type of
- 2 business enterprise.
- Now, 900 people, okay? Parking, I did
- 4 the math on that. If you say the low end of the 900
- 5 people are going arrive by car, 70%, that's 630
- 6 people. The diagram said that it was going to be two
- 7 people per car, that's 360 cars coming into the area,
- 8 not 187. So where are they going to park? Who's
- 9 going to manage the traffic? Who's going to manage
- 10 the trash? Because if you go up and down Lakeshore
- 11 now, it's like a drag strip. You can see the tire
- 12 marks all over the street. You can see the debris
- 13 all over the Lakefront that has to be picked up by
- 14 somebody every morning. It's just going to be more
- 15 of that in our neighborhood.
- 16 So, I think the concept is great. But
- 17 until these issues are addressed, particularly the
- 18 funding fees -- where's the money going to come from
- 19 when you're losing \$700,000 dollars a year? Until
- 20 that is addressed, I'm against this project.
- 21 Thank you for your time.
- 22 MS. McKEE:
- In the essence of time, I'm going call
- 24 three people. Mr. Kerry Cuccia. Is that right?
- 25 MR. CUCCIA:

- 1 That's right.
- 2 MS. McKEE:
- Meg Adams and Bob Simon. If you'll
- 4 please come up now.
- 5 MR. CUCCIA:
- Good morning. I'm Kerry Cuccia. I'm
- 7 a resident of West End. I've lived in New Orleans my
- 8 entire life.
- 9 And I'm very, very sensitive, and
- 10 understand community and neighborhood concerns
- 11 because I'm intimately involved with that myself in
- 12 another region. But I look at this project and I
- think to myself, what is it that is not in the City
- 14 of New Orleans, and there really is not a beach
- 15 available. And a beach is a very popular thing, a
- 16 very lucrative in some respect, and something that
- 17 can be desirable.
- Now, myself, I'm a boater, and from a
- 19 boater's prospective, that area is being used. It's
- 20 being used on an Ad Hoc basis. It's being used
- 21 somewhat in unsafe (phonetic) basis. It's not really
- 22 a good place to do it, but it's being done. This
- 23 project will stop that proper from my personal
- 24 prospective, and my personal view.
- 25 I think that the residents' concerns

- 1 are all warranted. I thought that Mr. Robichaux's
- 2 ideas were right, because ideas of noise, ideas of
- 3 pollution, ideas of crime, all of those problems come
- 4 with progress, and we all want progress.
- 5 And so while I support this project
- 6 wholeheartedly, I also support the idea of the
- 7 residents who are asking that there be meaningful,
- 8 and responsible safeguards put in to address their
- 9 concerns. I think that can be done. I think it
- 10 should be done, and I really think this project
- 11 should go forward, and it will turn out to be an
- 12 asset to everyone, even though there may be some
- 13 inconveniences.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 MS. McKEE:
- Is there a Meg Adams in the room? Meg
- 17 Adams. No?
- 18 MR. SIMON:
- 19 I'm Bob Simon, and I live in Lakeview.
- 20 Commissioners, I wish to speak in favor of the
- 21 development of Pontchartrain Beach, especially for
- 22 its recreational purposes.
- 23 I'm a wind surfer, and it's very nice
- 24 to launch from the beach. Somebody spoke earlier
- 25 about launching from rocky areas, it's just not very

- 1 pleasant. The prevailing winds are such that in the
- 2 summer time, the winds are generally from the South,
- 3 and so for me, generally, go up to -- near Slidell
- 4 and launch from the Northshore beach. It's only
- 5 about a thirty minute drive or so, and that's fine.
- 6 But in the winter time, when the winds are really up
- 7 to twenty miles an hour and more, that's when it
- 8 becomes a really enjoyable sport. The winds are from
- 9 the North.
- 10 And the only place to launch where
- 11 there is any kind of a beach at all, at least that
- 12 I'm aware of, near the New Orleans area, is near the
- 13 Frenier landing restaurant, just off the -- just past
- 14 the I-55 cutoff and that's a half an hour drive,
- 15 minimum, if traffic is not too bad. There's a little
- 16 boat launch there, but behind the restaurant is a
- 17 very mucky, silky area that you have to wade through,
- 18 getting stuck in the muck on your way out to the
- 19 Lake. And, it's not ideal. It's usable, but if
- 20 Pontchartrain Beach were developed, we'd have a place
- 21 close in with a sandy beach, with parking nearby, it
- 22 would be ideal.
- 23 And so, I'm in favor of developing
- 24 this recreational area, and I would personally use it
- 25 whenever there is a wind from the North, which makes

it safe to launch from the Southshore. 1 2 Thank you very much. 3 MS. McKEE: Jonathan Rhodes. 4 5 MS. McKEE: Gary Sampey and David Ippolito. 6 7 MR. RHODES: Thank you everybody. My name 8 Okav. 9 is Jonathan Rhodes. I am a resident of New Orleans. I live Uptown. I'm an attorney, business owner, and 10 11 member of the Pontcha Surf Club. My oldest daughter 12 also goes to Ben Franklin, so I feel like, I don't 13 live here, but I'm here a lot, and I'm at the top of Elysian Fields a lot. 14 15 I just want to make some comments that 16 I think that the residents' concerns, you know, are 17 valid. I do support a recreational reopening of the 18 beach, but I think we can do it in a way that not 19 only meets the concerns, but also really improves the 20 greater community. And I think, first of all, you know, while the presentation may need some 21 improvements and some changes, I think the good news 22 23 is that we have a fantastic group. 24 I mean, you have business leaders. Urban Planners, you know, expert developers, and 25

- 1 really kind of the cream of the crop of New Orleans,
- 2 so if anyone can solve the problem, I do think it
- 3 would be them.
- 4 I'd also just encourage the Board and
- 5 the community, and the Foundation to look at examples
- 6 around our city. Where we have been able to
- 7 successfully build recreational uses of our natural
- 8 amenities in a great way for residents. So, I think
- 9 of places like The Fly over at Audubon Park, between,
- 10 you know, Walnut and Henry Clay. In the middle of a
- 11 neighborhood. We have thousands of people coming
- 12 every day. Cars, college students, kids, everything.
- 13 Look at the, down at the bottom of
- 14 Elysian Fields, the new Crescent Park, right? This
- 15 developed in the middle of the Historic Marigny
- 16 Bywater. Again, thousands of people, all kinds of
- 17 uses. Inclusive. It's open to all. It's pure. I
- 18 go there often and feel safe.
- 19 You know, people accessing the Levee
- 20 on the Westbank. You know, at the point. We do this
- in the middle of these neighborhoods, I think, it's
- 22 not my neighborhood admittedly, but I think we can do
- 23 it in a way where we can all benefit, the residents
- 24 won't be disturbed, and will actually get an amenity
- 25 for themselves.

MR. IPPOLITO:  Good morning. My name is David  Ippolito and I want to thank you all for holding to meeting.  I suppose if I didn't in Lake Terral  for thirty years, I would think this was a fine id  But, since I am a long time resident of Lake Terral  I don't think the traffic problem has been address	ce ea. ce, ed.
4 Ippolito and I want to thank you all for holding to meeting.  6 I suppose if I didn't in Lake Terra  7 for thirty years, I would think this was a fine id  8 But, since I am a long time resident of Lake Terra	ce ea. ce, ed.
5 meeting. 6 I suppose if I didn't in Lake Terra 7 for thirty years, I would think this was a fine id 8 But, since I am a long time resident of Lake Terra	ce ea. ce, ed.
I suppose if I didn't in Lake Terra for thirty years, I would think this was a fine id  But, since I am a long time resident of Lake Terra	ea. ce, ed.
7 for thirty years, I would think this was a fine id 8 But, since I am a long time resident of Lake Terra	ea. ce, ed.
8 But, since I am a long time resident of Lake Terra	ce, ed.
, g	ed.
9 I don't think the traffic problem has been address	
	't
10 There is nowhere to put additional parking. I don	-
11 think the crime that is going to come with increas	ed
12 traffic has been addressed. I don't think the	
13 garbage problem has been addressed adequately, and	I
14 think that there needs to be a lot of work to be d	one
15 before this development goes forward.	
16 I do not think this is the right gr	oup
17 to be developing this project, and I oppose it.	
18 Thank you.	
19 MS. McKEE:	
Next, we're going to have Mr. Carlt	on
21 Dufrechou, Deneed Dahn, and Mr. Conrad Luecke.	
MR. DUFRECHOU:	
Ladies and gentlemen. I'm Carlton	
24 Dufrechou. I, until six years ago, was a resident	of
25 New Orleans, but I live across the 17th Street Can	al

- 1 now, because of everything you've said. Because we
- 2 got robbed three times, because we have holes in our
- 3 street, and all this kind of good stuff.
- 4 Here's the -- I guess, the tough --
- 5 I'm a proponent. There's no two ways about that. I
- 6 used be the Lake guy. I spent a lot of time out
- 7 here.
- 8 You've -- several of you have said
- 9 that it's 1960 and it is 2023. You're right. In the
- 10 late '50's, very early '60's, I lived in a duplex
- 11 right across the street. This place was unbelievably
- 12 great. I'm not suggesting that it could never be
- 13 that again, but it was magnificent. You could walk
- 14 all over the place, and actually go to Fort St. John,
- 15 and play over there. There's an old bridge I used to
- 16 walk across Bayou St. John and fish with my
- 17 grandfather.
- There's a risk in everything we do.
- 19 All of you are talking about things, the concerns we
- 20 have, and they are real. They have to be addressed.
- 21 It is not anywhere near the City that I knew. I love
- 22 this place, and it's got a great character, but it's
- 23 a love/hate relationship because we've gone so
- 24 doggone far down.
- 25 Forgive my emotions, but this dang

- 1 place is worth saving. Not only worth saving the dog
- 2 gone Lake and the Lighthouse, but it's just this City
- 3 and the problems we've had. Thank God, all of you
- 4 all here, and all of you members of this Board and
- 5 the Committees, because you want to do positive
- 6 thing.
- 7 What I can tell you is I've known Mr.
- 8 Williams for a hell of a long time, and this dude is
- 9 sincere. And he does not do anything except for the
- 10 betterment of everything around here.
- 11 Do I think Pontchartrain Beach can
- 12 come back and be a -- I think it could be a catalyst.
- 13 Everything we talked about, about traffic, all that's
- 14 going to be addressed. Security has to be addressed.
- I guess what I'd like to leave you
- 16 with is, if we don't take a risk, nothing will
- 17 change.
- 18 Thank you all, and just keep doing
- 19 good. Whatever happens with this, keep talking to
- 20 each other, please. We have a great country, but we
- 21 gotta quit -- we gotta figure out a way to talk to
- 22 people again, and make positive things happen.
- Thank you.
- 24 MS. DAHN:
- 25 My name is Deneen Dahn, and I am a

- 1 homeowner in Lake Oaks, and I am a member of the Lake
- 2 Oaks Action Committee. It's part of the Neighborhood
- 3 Association.
- 4 So first of all, I want to say that
- 5 I'm really happy and proud of all the residents that
- 6 came out, and are interested, and are willing to put
- 7 their time in, and all the Board here who gave up
- 8 their Saturday. I really appreciate it.
- 9 But, I really moved by all the people
- 10 who had very strong logical oppositional reasons, and
- 11 I think one of the reasons that the residents are
- 12 very skeptical is because, when we were first
- 13 presented with this, a lot of research and important
- 14 things were not discovered, or investigated, or
- 15 portrayed to us. We gave our input, and the lease
- 16 was drawn, and none of that input, or very little of
- 17 that input was taken into account.
- And we are residents of the Levee
- 19 Board, of the Levee District, and so we are like,
- 20 your responsibility, so you should be looking out for
- 21 us. Instead of, you know, trying to create commerce.
- My idea is, what if we developed some
- 23 covenant for the beach, and for how they -- before
- 24 any leases are drawn up. So anybody that then gets
- 25 the lease have to obey those covenants. And maybe we

- 1 should investigate, seeing as we have a lot of people
- 2 who are very concerned, who want some recreation, but
- 3 don't want all the bad stuff that comes with it.
- 4 We need people, we need to do
- 5 something where the neighborhood could find a way to
- 6 develop it, and create a committee, raise money, get
- 7 the safety concerns squared away first. And go that
- 8 way, and make it more of a natural asset instead of
- 9 like, something that seemingly more commercial. So
- 10 something more like a park, like (inaudible).
- 11 So that's my ideas. If we, if we
- 12 controlled the narrative, instead of other people
- 13 telling us it's going to be like this, but it's not
- in the lease, or telling us things that can't really
- 15 work out the way they are showing us. So I just
- 16 think that maybe -- (inaudible)
- 17 So I just think that maybe we should
- 18 take a whole different direction. A whole different
- 19 approach. That's my idea. Alright.
- Thank you.
- 21 MR. LUECKE:
- 22 Hi. I'm Conrad Luecke, and I live in
- 23 New Orleans. I live in St. Roch which is about three
- 24 miles away from Pontchartrain Beach.
- 25 And I want to say to this Board, I

- 1 think that I, and many others, have a lot of the same
- 2 concerns that the residents of the Lakefront have,
- 3 and I think that the beach can be, the beach project
- 4 can be accomplished while addressing some of these
- 5 basic concerns.
- So, in my professional life, I've been
- 7 lucky enough to be an Oceanographer, and I've
- 8 traveled the world and seen a lot of the most
- 9 beautiful beaches around, and that gives me a lot of
- 10 appreciation for what a wonderful place New Orleans
- 11 has. Our beach is surprisingly beautiful, and it's
- 12 this little place of paradise. It deserves to be a
- 13 safety and accessible place for residents, and for us
- 14 alike.
- 15 I'm also an avid recreational user of
- 16 the Lake, and waterfront, and it really excites me to
- 17 see how diverse a base of users the Pontchartrain
- 18 Beach Foundation has included in its plans. From
- 19 swimmers and beach goers, to kayaker's, wind surfers,
- 20 paddle boarders, surfers and dog owners, and I think
- 21 the proposed beach will have something for everyone.
- I just want to remind people in the
- 23 room that communities affected by having a beach
- 24 aren't just communities living in close proximity.
- 25 Most of the residents of the city don't have the

- 1 privilege or means to live like, immediately adjacent
- 2 to a Lake or a beach or something. So, you know,
- 3 perhaps if, hearing a lot of the wonderful vibrant
- 4 towns of the city is a concern for people who live in
- 5 the city, they maybe chose a poor place to live.
- I think development of the beach can
- 7 positively impact many all over the city, and so for
- 8 that reason, I support Pontchartrain Beach in its
- 9 effort -- the Foundation in its efforts.
- 10 MS. McKEE:
- Next, we're going to have Brett
- 12 DuMortier. Is Mr. Brett in the room? Okay.
- 13 Tevis Vandergriff and Ms. Sonja Lady
- 14 DeDais. I'm sorry.
- MR. DUMORTIER:
- 16 Hi. My name is Brett DuMortier. I am
- 17 a resident of Lake Terrace, so before everybody gets
- in a huff about people who don't live here.
- 19 I fully support this plan. I have
- 20 lots of friends who live in the Lake Terrace, Lake
- 21 Vista area. They all support it. It's great. It's
- 22 a non-used asset right now. Let's make something of
- 23 it, and make it happen.
- 24 The fact that a President of a
- 25 Neighborhood Association would portray this as some

- 1 sort of a racist plan is disgraceful.
- 2 And that's absolutely ridiculous to
- 3 even bring that into the mix. That's it.
- 4 MR. VANDERGRIFF:
- 5 Good afternoon. I'm Tevis
- 6 Vandergriff. I'm a resident of Lake Terrace for
- 7 almost thirty years.
- 8 UNKNOWN FEMALE:
- 9 We can't hear you.
- 10 MR. VANDERGRIFF:
- 11 Tevis Vandergriff, resident of Lake
- 12 Terrace for almost thirty years.
- I have all the same questions about
- 14 the development that we've heard today, but the one
- 15 that I have not heard is the one that's going to be
- 16 most impactful of all, and that is the business park
- 17 that is right there.
- 18 What kind of things have they been
- 19 saying to you guys about this? They are right on top
- 20 of this development. So, if someone could ever come
- 21 forward, and give us an idea of what they're saying
- 22 about it -- I mean, they're conducting business, you
- 23 know, during regular business stops, so they will be
- 24 impacted by traffic. By any kind of entertainment,
- and the number of people that would be there.

- 1 So, I would love to hear someone
- 2 representing the business park, tell us how they feel
- 3 about this. As far as the actual residential areas,
- 4 Lake Oaks, Lake Terrace, Lake View, Lake Vista, we
- 5 know how they feel, and I feel the same way about all
- 6 their concerns.
- 7 Thank you very much.
- 8 MS. DeDAIS:
- 9 Greetings to all of you all this
- 10 afternoon. Beautiful afternoon.
- I look out and I see the
- 12 Commissioners. I see some developers. Many faces I
- 13 know, some I have never met. With all the many
- important people that is in this gym among us, the
- 15 most important person, the most important people is
- 16 you. The citizens that have come out so amazingly in
- 17 numbers.
- Now, I say this to you before I say,
- 19 without a doubt, that I am in support of the
- 20 redevelopment of Pontchartrain Beach. And why is
- 21 that? Pontchartrain Beach once was the most
- 22 beautiful beach, where they had wonderful families,
- 23 and it stands for family. It stands for family fun.
- 24 It stands for family gatherings.
- Now, we all know in any development,

- 1 crime arrives. So, I thank you, the many developers,
- 2 and I am one, because I represent World Wide Global
- 3 Investment, LLC, and I own my own entity of Royal
- 4 Ambassador.
- 5 You might have adequate security to
- 6 provide the citizens of this neighborhood what they
- 7 need so that they will complain less. I'm for you.
- 8 I would like to be a part of your team, but the most
- 9 important thing today is, besides the Commissioners
- 10 up there, is you genuine beautiful people.
- 11 So, I give an applaud to you all for
- 12 coming out to say, yea, nay, yes or no. There's
- 13 going to always be pros and cons in every situation.
- And the most important is, I leave you
- 15 with this, is that the developers who will be
- 16 developing Pontchartrain Beach, something that will
- 17 happen, have provided adequate security, and an
- 18 adequate plan, and have adequate funding, so that no
- 19 one can say it's at a loss, and I stand to correct
- 20 anyone that says it's about race. No. It's not.
- 21 It's about sand and water.
- 22 Enjoy your day. For the record, my
- 23 name is Sonja Lady DeDais. I am an entrepreneur in
- 24 the City of New Orleans. Born and raised here all my
- 25 life. I live in Uptown New Orleans. And I think you

- 1 for giving me this opportunity and this time to speak
- 2 with you all.
- 3 MS. McKEE:
- 4 Ms. Marie Ormond will be next. Mr.
- 5 Gus and Karen Wells.
- 6 MS. ORMOND:
- Good Morning, or good afternoon. It
- 8 appears that we don't want to make a change. Closer
- 9 here? Okay.
- 10 It appears that we don't want to make
- 11 a change, but really what we want is to be included
- in all the changes that we're going to make,
- 13 especially with our subdivision. I can only talk for
- one, and that's Lake Terrace.
- My name is Marie Ormond, and my
- 16 husband and I live out here -- this is our 26th year
- 17 out here. So I have a lot to say. I've seen a lot.
- 18 I've heard a lot. I've been through a lot here.
- We should really look at our existing
- 20 problems. Trash, property neglect, crime and so on,
- 21 and camaraderie among all of us. We should also look
- 22 at the young people here that are trying to make a
- change.
- We can't, as older people, take what
- 25 we -- how we live and bring it up to this date.

- 1 They're not going to call for any of that. They can
- 2 talk to all of us that are mature, find out how we
- 3 did, what we did, what we like, and what we didn't
- 4 like, and then they can apply that to the changes
- 5 that they can make.
- 6 Right now, we have a great, young
- 7 President, Ashley Haydel. I can -- I don't Ashley
- 8 herself that well, but I knew her family, the
- 9 Haydels. And the Haydels did quite a lot for this
- 10 community. For blacks, whites, everybody that lived
- 11 here. Every nationality. Every type of feeling.
- 12 Gays. Straights. It didn't matter. The thing is,
- is that we should have leaders that are non-
- 14 prejudiced.
- We have -- I wondered why we didn't
- 16 have a flyer sent to each one of us asking us
- 17 questions that you wanted us to answer. That we
- 18 could have answered. That maybe you could have come
- 19 here and introduced yourselves differently, and given
- 20 a proposal differently than what is done now.
- 21 Because, I don't know what to answer to, because I
- 22 was never discussed with this, okay?
- So, did your company ever research the
- 24 racial history here? I'm eighty years old, and I'm
- 25 telling you, Lake Pontchartrain is not a wonderful

- 1 memory for me, because we couldn't come on the Lake.
- 2 Black people couldn't come on the Lake, and any other
- 3 minority couldn't come on the Lake. Up until this
- 4 day -- they just now, I think, allowed people to come
- 5 on the Lakefront on the weekend, or holidays.
- 6 And we're paying taxes. My black
- 7 dollar is paying is for every white person in here to
- 8 do what they want with the Lakefront. So, we need to
- 9 sit down, and think about what we want to offer to
- 10 everybody.
- 11 Your children, my grandchildren, your
- 12 nieces and nephews, every one of them who ought to
- 13 have the same privileges as you all are presenting.
- 14 So, it's not about you as Developers, it's how you
- 15 present it to us, or who did you listen to, to come
- 16 to us? Everybody out here can afford every house
- 17 that they have from the least expensive to the most
- 18 expensive. I can remember when I --
- 19 MS. THOMAS:
- 20 Excuse me. I just want to clarify
- 21 something.
- 22 MS. ORMOND:
- Yes.
- 24 MS. THOMAS:
- We're not the developers.

- 1 MS. ORMOND:
- No, I didn't say they are. I'm just
- 3 talking to everybody. I don't know who is the
- 4 developer and who isn't.
- 5 MS. THOMAS:
- 6 Well, they're behind you.
- 7 Pontchartrain Beach Foundation is behind you.
- 8 MS. ORMOND:
- 9 No, I wasn't talking -- if I could
- 10 turn around here like this. I'm not used to being on
- 11 a stage like this.
- So I know that, even though I didn't
- 13 know who they were, including you all. I don't know
- 14 who you are.
- 15 MS. THOMAS:
- We're the Lakefront Management
- 17 Authority.
- 18 MS. ORMOND:
- 19 Yeah, I know. But I don't know you to
- 20 say that I see you enough that I would identify you
- 21 in a second. I wouldn't know.
- 22 So what you're trying to do --
- 23 whatever you're trying to do, you should get with our
- 24 President. Let her deal with her constituents, and
- 25 then let us make some type of decision, and give our

- 1 opinion, and then you'd have an idea of what
- 2 everybody is thinking and wanting, and what everybody
- 3 will accept.
- 4 MS. THOMAS:
- 5 I'm sorry (inaudible), ma'am, and
- 6 thank you. Thank you for your input. We appreciate
- 7 it tremendously.
- 8 MR. GUS:
- 9 I am nervous. I don't usually get up
- 10 and do this. My name is Bernard Gus. I am a member
- of the Carrollton Riverbend Neighborhood Association.
- 12 So I'm not in the neighborhood, but, I am a taxpayer
- 13 in this City.
- 14 And, ladies and gentlemen, our City is
- 15 dying because we make it so difficult for people to
- 16 start a business, and allow our city to thrive, and
- 17 these are not out of town people. These people over
- 18 here, I know some of them, and they care about our
- 19 city (inaudible). These are not out-of-towners.
- 20 They're not here to take advantage of us.
- 21 At what point, do we start to really
- 22 listen and say, how are we going to make it easier
- 23 for businesses to thrive in our city? All the
- 24 concerns, the woman that just spoke, very eloquently,
- 25 I agree with her, and I think that everything that's

1	been said, makes sense, but at what point do we say,
2	the beach needs to come back?
3	If you purchased a house next to the
4	beach, I understand your concerns, but it's a
5	commercial space. It's a commercial space. It needs
6	to be
7	UNKNOWN FEMALE:
8	It's not commercial.
9	MR. GUS:
10	it needs to be renovated. It needs
11	to thrive.
12	UNKNOWN FEMALE:
13	It's not a commercial
14	MR. GUS:
15	One of the
16	UNKNOWN FEMALE:
17	It's not a commercial
18	MR. GUS:
19	It's a space. It's a space that was a
20	thing, and it needs to be a thing again. And one of
21	the gentlemen that spoke earlier about Premier, that
22	space over there, you know, I that actually is my
23	family's property, and it hasn't been developed. At
24	some point, when are we going to stop letting
25	business go to Jefferson Parish, and other

- 1 communities and thrive?
- I say, let's bring New Orleans back.
- 3 And that's what these people are trying to do.
- 4 They're from here. Let's allow them to do it. Let's
- 5 get these concerns taken care of, and let's move on.
- 6 MS. WELLS:
- 7 Hello. My name is Karen Wells, and I
- 8 live in St. Roch in New Orleans. I'm a nurse, and a
- 9 Pontcha Surf Club member, and if I could have a
- 10 public beach in my back yard, I would love that.
- 11 Unfortunately, that's not an option in
- 12 St. Roch, where I live. I would love for my patients
- 13 to have the opportunity to improve their health by
- 14 recreating outside at Pontchartrain Beach. Many
- 15 patients I talk to don't recreate outside in the
- 16 summer because it's so hot. When it's so hot out,
- 17 the beach is a great place to get exercise, as well
- 18 as foster valuable social connections, which are both
- 19 essential to mental and physical health.
- 20 Not everyone in New Orleans has the
- 21 money to live near the water, but we all deserve the
- 22 opportunity to utilize the Lakefront.
- Thank you.
- 24 MS. McKEE:
- 25 Is Mr. Gus Bemis in the room?

- 1 Gary Sampey? Okay. And Ms. Rebecca Conwell, Mr.
- 2 Frank Scurlock, last Phalon Cornist. Mr. Sampey, are
- 3 you in the room?
- 4 Mr. Gus?
- 5 MR. BEMIS:
- 6 Hello. (inaudible). How are you?
- 7 Here we go again. Another project, another something
- 8 going on with the Lakefront.
- 9 I'm just going to say this. In
- 10 general, I've always felt that the Lakefront property
- 11 has always been under used. I think it's very
- 12 valuable property, and that we can do better than
- 13 what we've done. And at first glance, I look at this
- 14 particular project, and you know, the devil's always
- in the details, so I want to know the details.
- 16 You know, we can -- it looks good, it
- 17 looks good, but when I sat here, I looked at the
- 18 Statute, and there's certain questions on what is
- 19 actually legal, but when I get into the
- 20 technicalities and the lawyerly stuff, my bottom line
- 21 is, there's a -- the struggle has always been to find
- 22 a nice balance between people enjoying the State Park
- 23 property, and the neighbors being able to enjoy their
- 24 quality of life in their neighborhood. And, it's
- 25 hard for me to support this, not because in general

- 1 I'm against a beach, but with what I'm seeing and
- 2 what I took a look at -- I asked for a security plan.
- 3 You know, I serve on the Lake Terrace Crime
- 4 Prevention District, and I'm well aware. I work with
- 5 the Levee Board Police. I've worked with the NOPD.
- 6 I've worked -- I know the problems that we have out
- 7 here, and I got a couple of diagrams, and a few
- 8 comments to this.
- 9 Before I can say, let's do this, I
- 10 need specifics. I need a real garbage plan -- trash.
- 11 I need a real security plan. I need a real traffic
- 12 plan. I need something that's going to really tell
- 13 us what it is that we're looking at, you know. I
- 14 looked at the lease, and I know we're not talking
- 15 about the lease, but I'm seeing stuff like insured
- 16 immovable properties, surrounding area. I'm looking
- 17 at all these terms that basically mean nothing if
- 18 they're not defined.
- So, if you want us to come in here we
- 20 support it, but don't support it, you need to do a
- 21 lot better than what you put in front of the
- 22 neighborhoods.
- So, that's my bottom line at this
- 24 point. My bottom line is, you know, I'm also a
- 25 former President of the Greek Church, and one of the

- 1 assignments we do is, during Epiphany, we throw a
- 2 cross into the bayou, and people go in and retrieve
- 3 it. Seven of the ten years, we've found it. A bunch
- 4 of the years, one year they opened the spillway, so
- 5 we couldn't do it. The other times, we always take
- 6 counts from the Lake Pontchartrain Foundation, and we
- 7 couldn't put our kids in there because of how dirty
- 8 the water was.
- 9 So, there's so many issues that need
- 10 to be addressed. This isn't a for, or against. This
- is, give me something to work with you. Don't give
- 12 me one or two things, and ask us to make a decision
- 13 based on what you're giving us. I think we need a
- 14 lot more information. A lot more detail, real
- 15 budgets and real things that are going on here.
- I want to know how many police
- 17 officers you're going to take from the Levee Police,
- 18 or private security. How many people are you going
- 19 to have patrolling? There's so many issues.
- 20 So once again, I'm not trying to --
- 21 bottom line. Bottom line. Please give us more
- 22 information. I want to work with you, but what
- 23 you've given us is not enough to get an okay from me.
- 24 My name is Constantine Bemis. I live
- 25 at 1423 New York Street, and I serve on the Lake

- 1 Terrace Crime Prevention District.
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 MS. McKEE:
- 4 Mr. Scurlock. Rebecca Conwell.
- 5 MR. SCURLOCK:
- 6 Thank y'all. The first thing I want
- 7 to do is say, I arrived late. Do you know why I
- 8 arrived late? I was working. That's what people do.
- 9 People work. People provide for their families,
- 10 hopefully, they know how to love, which I've seen
- 11 really disrespectful when I see people walking up
- 12 here, and say, "you got two minutes." Come on,
- 13 really? It doesn't work that way.
- 14 Let me tell you how it works. I have
- 15 a theory. First off, let me tell you who I am. My
- 16 name is Frank Miles Scurlock. My dad invented
- 17 Spacewalk, if that means anything. I have three
- 18 homes. I have New Orleans, Louisiana, one of the
- 19 boathouses. I have Destin, Florida, which are, I
- 20 know, have the prettiest beaches, I believe, in
- 21 America, and the third I have is Walt Disney World.
- 22 I lived there for twelve years.
- There's was a guy named Walt, who had
- 24 success in California doing wonderful things. He
- 25 came here next. We know what the city did. They

- 1 held him hostage. He wasn't silly. He left. My
- 2 house in Walt Disney World has appreciated 300% in
- 3 eight years. Has anybody's houses here appreciated
- 4 like that? I don't think so.
- 5 So, let me tell you what should
- 6 happen, and what I see. Some people here want to go
- 7 backwards. I don't like pot holes. The only way to
- 8 fix pot holes is to pay taxes. The only way to pay
- 9 taxes is to have business. It's called development.
- 10 So, that's what -- I commend this
- 11 group for coming here unselfishly on their own
- 12 nickel, on their own dime, to do something for
- 13 everybody. It doesn't matter if you're pink, green,
- 14 white, black, or yellow. We are a human in a human
- 15 race, and until the -- Sonja, made a mistake. The
- 16 most important person in this room, is that quy
- 17 upstairs that's called God.
- I asked Carlton, when he was here, did
- 19 we start with a prayer? The answer was no. I think
- 20 this is a public meeting. I don't know what your
- 21 rules are. I suggest you consider it.
- I'll leave you with this. If -- even
- 23 this is a part of a church, I think it's called St.
- 24 Pius, turn around and look. Look at the "Be
- 25 cooperative. Be respectful. Be responsible, and

- 1 "Be safe." Ask yourself before you say one more word
- 2 to anybody, did those words from a tiger get done
- 3 today.
- 4 The last thing I'll say is this, and
- 5 this is very important. There was one year 1984,
- 6 three magnificent things happened. First, it was the
- 7 worst. The beach closed. The beach closed because
- 8 Pontchartrain Beach knew they couldn't keep up with
- 9 the World's Fair, which opened in 1984. And the
- 10 last, when I go to sleep on Tuesday night, I'll be in
- 11 my house in Destin, Florida, which was incorporated
- 12 in 1984.
- So, if you want progressive, you do
- 14 development. This human here, Mr. Williams, God
- 15 bless you. Thank you. Yeah, Mr. Sage, who I saw
- 16 almost crying when he left here, when I walked in.
- 17 He told me. When I went to the meeting over -- with
- 18 Lincoln Beach, they had to break in to fix something
- 19 the City broke. That's broken. Let's fix this. We
- 20 pay taxes -- I mean, if you pay taxes, do y'all agree
- 21 you want something in return? Let's do that. Let's
- 22 work together.
- So, just set some simple rules, but
- 24 don't kick anybody out. Include everybody. I did
- 25 run for Mayor, it's true, in 2017. And do you know

- 1 why I ran for Mayor? Because I believe the person
- 2 who should be Mayor, is the leader with a vision that
- 3 will carry this city to the next step. Because just
- 4 like it was said, we got real issues. Crime. I was
- 5 the victim of a carjacking, not fun. My son's broken
- 6 into three times in three months. Not right. He's
- 7 in the process of moving to Florida. How do you
- 8 think that looks? Not good.
- 9 We can fix it, and I believe it starts
- 10 at the beach.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 MS. CONWELL:
- 13 Good afternoon. I'm Rebecca Conwell.
- 14 I'm a resident of New Orleans, although not in this
- 15 neighborhood, but I am President and CEO of the UNO
- 16 Research and Technology Foundation. In the new
- 17 Research Park, which is the newly re-branded the
- 18 Beach at UNO as Sandbox for Collaboration.
- We're an entity that's existed for
- 20 almost thirty years. The park has been in existence
- 21 for around twenty years. And my office overlooks the
- 22 very area that we're talking about developing. One
- 23 of the most incredible views in the city. And I have
- 24 had the privilege of touring people and showing them
- 25 the space from that point of view from my office, and

- 1 some of the other offices.
- I watch the use of the beach shoreline
- 3 every day. When people have the guts to trespass,
- 4 and bring their dogs, and very few people know that
- 5 they can trespass. And then the fence gets fixed,
- 6 and someone breaks it, and they're back out using it
- 7 again.
- 8 It's an absolute shame that an asset
- 9 so beautiful is locked up, and I understand why. You
- 10 know, it's dangerous to invite people. And so, I
- 11 want to say, number one, thank you for issuing the
- 12 RFP. If someone ask how we feel, I'm officially very
- 13 much in support of the development of the shoreline,
- 14 and I appreciate the RFP, and I appreciate that only
- one group showed up and has responded.
- It's not easy to be a leader. When
- 17 you're a leader, people can come after you because
- 18 you put yourself out there, and you're attacked, and
- 19 there's a tremendous amount of anger that comes from
- 20 that basically because of change. But when I bring
- 21 people to the beach, and I show them what we're
- 22 excited about because we're developing an even
- 23 greater partnership with the University of New
- Orleans than the past, we have the most -- we have so
- 25 much to gain. I won't say the most because your

- 1 beautiful neighborhoods matter to you, and you're
- 2 here because it matters to you.
- I applaud the process. I applaud this
- 4 group that's here. They are New Orleanians. They
- 5 didn't come -- I have had some out of town developers
- 6 look at it and salivate over this unused property.
- 7 If someone came in with a bunch of money, which would
- 8 be an out of town developer, they would drop money,
- 9 solve all of these problems, and you would have
- 10 someone that doesn't live here, reside, and care how
- 11 you feel. And they do care how you feel. I'll leave
- 12 it at that.
- Thank you, guys, for doing what you
- do, and for caring, and I don't mean in any way to
- 15 disrespect the fear of the neighborhoods. I believe
- 16 if we all work on this together, we can get this
- 17 done, and it can be a beautiful asset. We can
- 18 address the crime. We can address all the things,
- 19 but many of these things that you're mentioning,
- aren't even going to be able to be addressed for
- 21 years from now, because we have to get Federal Funds
- 22 to clean it up before we can invite anyone there.
- 23 And once we get to the point, where we
- 24 can invite people there, there'll be technology,
- 25 there's going to be some things, probably that exist.

- 1 There'll be assets that we don't even know that we
- 2 can use yet, and so I encourage everyone to continue
- 3 to work together to get this done.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 MS. McKEE:
- 6 Mr. Cornist.
- 7 MR. CORNIST:
- 8 First of all, I'd like to say thank
- 9 you. Oh, first of all, my name is Phalon Cornist.
- 10 I'm the President of Lake Oaks Civic Association.
- 11 I'd like to thank the Levee Board for
- 12 hosting this, and allowing us to speak how we feel
- 13 about what's going on.
- 14 There's a couple of things that I
- 15 wanted to talk about. First of all, a raise of
- 16 hands. How many people don't like the fact that
- 17 other people outside of our community are coming in
- 18 here telling us how we should feel the God dang beach
- 19 project? Okay? Yeah, that's the way I feel, too.
- 20 Secondly, come to us with respect.
- 21 Developers, come to us with respect. Allow us to be
- 22 able to tell you how we feel. That's the problem.
- 23 No one is speaking about how the citizens of Lake
- 24 Oaks and Lake Terrace feel about this. You coming in
- 25 here saying, "oh, you should develop this frickin

- 1 beach, " and nobody is coming to us -- sorry about
- 2 that -- nobody is coming to us to say, "hey, you know
- 3 what, let's look at what you guys need, what you
- 4 want," and then go from there. And that's not
- 5 specifically talking about the Lake Pontchartrain
- 6 Beach Foundation, it's everybody else who had the
- 7 nerve to get up here and say this.
- 8 Secondly, Lake Oaks, and Lake Terrace
- 9 is actually for the development of a beach. I think
- 10 everybody has missed that whole frickin point. We
- 11 just want the developers to be respectful of the
- 12 needs of Lake Oaks, and Lake Terrace. Because we're
- 13 the ones that have to deal with the brunt of this
- 14 crap. Okay?
- Now, the other thing is, is that the
- 16 original beach was opened up in 1928. Lake Oaks
- 17 wasn't even built then. So, it kind of makes sense
- 18 for people who moved in afterwards to have to deal
- 19 with the beach. It kind of makes sense. But, it's
- 20 also interesting on the fact that everyone who got up
- 21 here, talking about how wonderful the beach was,
- 22 doesn't look like me.
- So -- and I don't think that people
- 24 remember what that was like. So, I'm tired of people
- 25 getting up here telling me oh, the beach was

- 1 wonderful -- yep, right, was for you wasn't it, but
- 2 it wasn't for the rest of us.
- 3 So, before we start going into that
- 4 brief history about, you know, how great the beach
- 5 was, understand, there was some negative aspects to
- 6 the beach. Okay?
- 7 Another thing is, is this. Number
- 8 one, when we -- when this, the whole development
- 9 issue came out, it came out -- we first heard about
- 10 it December 16th, 2021. So, almost a year the Lake
- 11 Pontchartrain Beach Foundation got to Lake Oaks, and
- 12 then they gave their spiel about what they wanted,
- 13 and what they wanted to do. Lake Oaks passionately,
- 14 said, hey, you know, these are the things that we
- 15 want you guys to look into. These are the things
- 16 that we want. These are the things we need.
- Now, around that time, we have also
- 18 gotten from the Levee Board, and there was a
- 19 gentleman by the name of Stanley Comb (phonetic), who
- 20 actually put me into a corner, and he said, "Phalon,
- 21 if the Lake Pontchartrain Beach Foundation gives you
- 22 guys, will you guys comply with that?, " and I said,
- 23 "Yes."
- 24 Hal Matherne wrote up the list of
- 25 things that we need. Mr. Harold, how many things did

1	they allow on that?
2	MR. MATHERNE:
3	As I said earlier, there were ten
4	items.
5	MR. CORNIST:
6	Ten items.
7	MR. MATHERNE:
8	I scored seven of them a zero, two of
9	them were five, which is, you know
10	MR. CORNIST:
11	Right.
12	MR. MATHERNE:
13	and one ten.
14	MR. CORNIST:
15	So, out of it we got what
16	MR. MATHERNE:
17	1.5.
18	MR. CORNIST:
19	1.5 things that they agreed with.
20	And then Lake Terrace just simply wanted some trees
21	for buffering, and they put that off on someone else.
22	Bottom line of this is this. If you
23	going to come to us, and you want to build us a
24	beach, that's fine. Come to us with an honest,
25	realistic plan that makes sense. Because, I don't
1	

- 1 know about you guys, but if it doesn't make sense to
- 2 Lake Oaks, and Lake Terrace, then it doesn't make
- 3 sense to the community because we have to deal with
- 4 it.
- 5 And also, one last thing on crime.
- 6 Lake Oaks is the corridor for a lot of the crime that
- 7 comes to Lake Terrace, Lake Vista, Lakeshore and
- 8 Lakeview. Okay? That hits us first, and we
- 9 unfortunately have had to deal with some of that. So
- 10 when people are saying, "oh, crime is going to
- 11 happen, " yeah, but let it happen in your back yard.
- 12 Don't force that crap on us. Unless you come with
- 13 some proper security measures that make sense.
- 14 My name is Phalon Cornist. Thank you.
- 15 MS. McKEE:
- 16 Ladies and gentlemen, this completes
- 17 the public comments.
- 18 MR. DROUANT:
- 19 Again, my name is Robert Drouant. I'm
- 20 on the Board, but I wanted everyone to know that when
- 21 we went to set this meeting up, there was talk about
- 22 having that airport. I discussed it with some
- 23 people. We were greatly concerned about having the
- 24 facility that could accommodate a crowd. When you
- 25 come to our Board meetings, the conference room is

- 1 not ideal. And St. Pius stepped up and provided a
- 2 free of no charge, and had no hesitancy to cooperate,
- 3 so I want to first thank St. Pius.
- And on a second note, I asked a couple
- 5 of Board members the others that didn't have a chance
- 6 to do tomorrow, from 8:00 2:30. St. Pius has a ten
- 7 year old, fifth grader, that has come down with
- 8 cancer. He is being treated at MB Anderson, as well
- 9 as, Children's Hospital. We're having a blood drive.
- 10 If any of you feel capable of doing it, we'd
- 11 appreciate your support for coming in and donating
- 12 blood. And the name of the girl, the young lady, for
- 13 the family's sake, they have not disclosed it, but
- 14 again, if you're feeling well enough, that's
- 15 something -- St. Pius likes to support the community.
- 16 St. Pius has supported its students, and we'd
- 17 appreciate it if you could come by tomorrow and
- 18 donate blood.
- 19 Thank you.
- 20 MR. RODGERS:
- 21 Alright, ladies and gentlemen, this
- 22 concludes the public comments. I'd like to thank
- 23 everybody for coming here. Thank St. Pius for
- 24 allowing us to come and utilize their space. As you
- 25 see, this is going to be an ongoing story. So, stay

- 1 tuned. We know that the Lake Pontchartrain Basin
- 2 Foundation will take all of your comments, your
- 3 concerns, and they will get back with the legal team
- 4 of the Lakefront Management Authority and see what
- 5 they come up with.
- And before, let me say this correctly,
- 7 before the Lakefront Management Authority decides to
- 8 take a vote, it will be a public vote on this, as I
- 9 said earlier, and all the passion that was displayed
- 10 here today, as you see, there's going to be some more
- 11 discussion on this. This is not going to happen in a
- 12 vacuum. It's going to be all whole public
- 13 disclosure.
- So again, thank you, and everybody
- 15 enjoy the rest of your weekend.
- 16 2. Review and discussion of the proposed lease
- 17 between the Lakefront Management Authority and the
- 18 Pontchartrain Beach Foundation for the redevelopment
- 19 of Pontchartrain Beach.
- 20 Chair Rodgers stated at the beginning of the
- 21 meeting that there would be no discussion on the
- 22 lease at today's meeting. (See pg. 15 of transcript)
- 23 VIII. Adjourn
- 24 A motion to adjourn was offered by
- 25 Commissioner Heaton; seconded by Commissioner Expose

1	at 12:52 PM. (As follows:)
2	MR. RODGERS:
3	Move for adjourn?
4	MS. HEATON:
5	Move.
6	MR. EXPOSE:
7	Second.
8	MR. RODGERS:
9	Thank you, sir.
10	A motion to adjourn was offered by
11	Commissioner Heaton; seconded by Commissioner Expose
12	at 12:52 PM.
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_		
	1	
	2	
	3	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
	4	This certification is valid only for a
	5	transcript accomplished by my original signature and original required stamp on this page.
	6	I, TAMMY LeBLANC JOSEPH, Certified Court
	7	Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, Certificate No. 91118, as the Officer before whom
	8	this meeting was taken, do hereby certify that the meeting taken by me on May 20, 2023, did proceed as
	9	hereinbefore set forth in the forgoing 109 pages; that this testimony was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared, transcribed
1	.0	by me or under my personal direction and supervision; and is a true and correct transcript to the best of
1	1	my ability and understanding; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format
1	2	guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board and that I am informed about the complete
1	.3	arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition
1	4	services; that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined
1	.5	by LA Code of Civil Procedure, Art 1434, and in rules and advisory opinions of the board;
1	.6	that I have no actual knowledge of any
1	7	prohibited employment or contractual relationship, direct or indirect, between a court reporting firm
1	.8	and any party litigant in this matter nor is there any such relationship between myself and a party
1	9	litigant in this matter. I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise
2	0	interested in the outcome of this matter.
2	1	Dated this 1st day of June, 2023.
2	2	
2	3	
2	4	
2	5	Tammy LeBlanc Joseph, CCR
1		

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