

From: David Hucks
Sent: 2/28/2016 7:54:17 AM
To: jpowers@nrdc.org
Cc: John Rhodes; Wayne Gray; mlowder@cityofmyrtlebeach.com; Mary Jeffcoat; Philip Render; mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com; brad.dean@visitmyrtlebeach.com; Randal Wallace; Billy Huggins; smiles@wmbfnews.com; Tom Ellenburg; Mark Kruea; wcbell@sbgvtv.com; Tom.Rice@mail.house.gov
Subject: Myrtle Beach Ocean Water Quality

Dear Ms. Rhea Suh,

On behalf of everyone who loves and prays for our precious oceanfront here in Myrtle Beach, we want to thank the NRDC for the [KNOW BEFORE YOU GO <http://s3.amazonaws.com/nw-infographics/beachmap/index.html#33.7/-78.9>](http://s3.amazonaws.com/nw-infographics/beachmap/index.html#33.7/-78.9) water quality rating system.

Since we this past Wednesday, when we posted your monitoring system on [Myrtle Beach's Highest Reach News Site <http://www.myrtlebeachsc.com/myrtle-beach-ocean-water-quality-code-yellow/>](http://www.myrtlebeachsc.com/myrtle-beach-ocean-water-quality-code-yellow/), over 124,000 tourists and locals have been made aware of this resource.

Sadly, it is the very people cc'd on this email that have worked in unison to silence our voice, as well as, keep our community in the dark about the hazards of allowing our most precious asset to be compromised.

Over the past year, through insider relationships, Mike Wooten of DDC engineers installed an \$11 million water system that our small business community and our resident taxpayers have footed the bill on. Myrtle Wooten's team is highly connected to the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce and all of those cc'd here. This system does nothing more than pump storm water with higher concentrated bacteria levels farther out to sea. The greatest benefit of this system is that it allows the city to remove permanent signs from beachfront swashes. Those signs previously warned residents and tourists about how high the bacteria levels were in those areas. As our storm water now going out to sea remains untreated, many residents believe the outfall systems are largely public relations tools.

As [MyrtleBeachSC.com <http://MyrtleBeachSC.com>](http://MyrtleBeachSC.com) has been willing to take a strong lead in speaking out for our beaches, we have also experienced expected retaliations from associates of those cc'd here. Oddly, two of these are corporate media managers.

Below is just one exchange from our Mayor's Wife and one of our writers on Facebook Messages:

Our Local Writer: When there is so much secrecy and information control, all people can do is speculate about certain things. Which is allowed. There should not be that level of secrecy. Period.

Terri Spring (Mayor Rhodes' Wife): I think I am going to address all his clients and present his view and the comments and see if they want to continue to do business with him how about that, huh? there is no secrecy, just theories....by people like david...if he continues I will carry this out...his advertisers need to know how he takes money with one hand and with the other he pens lies about this city....have a good night gotta go...

Just such types of attacks like these have been endless and colluded, with even the media types copied above joining in at different times throughout the past few years. Earlier this week, City Manager John Pedersen singled us out for "crime reporting" at a public city council meeting. He stated we were "scaring off tourists". As our team does not do daily crime reporting, this government attack was truly veiled and obvious.

As of the past short period, trolls began to back message our Facebook fans on our website after they posted, liked, shared, or commented on our site.

These are just the type of tactics one would expect from a country that is nothing like the one I was educated on in 3rd grade civics.

We love Myrtle Beach and our beaches. Our residents and our tourists deserve clean water and a clean environment to play in. Our beaches are an economic resource that produces over \$3 billion in revenue for our region annually. Only through systems like the one you have now provided can we hold all of those cc'd here accountable.

Rhea, I have met with over 35 small business owners this week and we do have their support behind us. Sadly, it is the two media channels listed here, the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber, the larger hotels and one local corporate concern that have waged the strongest war against our efforts here to hold local government accountable.

While this fight has cost my family almost all we have, the fight continues. Our beaches are worth this effort.

God has given us the voice and reach to join this fight and he will hold me personally and eternally responsible if I do nothing but make money from the platform he has provided. I believe everything we have and all we are is at stake here.