

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Subject: Myrtle Beach and the local 1% option tax and beach parking

Dear Governor Haley,

Thanks, first of all, for vetoing S1122 regarding the 1% local option tax even though I see that it was overridden. This should be put on the ballot for all of Horry County. As a native of Myrtle Beach who does not live within the city limits I don't feel that locals should have to pay for property tax breaks for people who do live within the city limits and for the powers that be to line their own pockets. Is this not redistribution? I thought this is a red state. The latest thing in Myrtle Beach is that the Mayor and city council are trying to run locals, who do not live within the city limits, off the beach. They are putting in "pay for park" at the public beach accesses and doing away with a lot of the parking on the boulevard. Only city residents with parking decals can park on the boulevard or park for free in the street ends. Traditionally, tourists have always parked and gone to the beach in the hotel areas. When the city installed parking meters in those areas, the tourists started coming to the "local" beaches where parking is free. This is also a designated surfing area where many of our kids go. Residents who live in the area have complained about the amount of cars parked near their homes every weekend during the summer. Please let me say that these residents have lived in Myrtle Beach for a long time and each knew of the beach parking when they bought their homes. So now, the city in trying to keep their positions, are restricting the parking in these areas. They are not trying to move the tourists back to the hotel areas, but are trying to tell the locals who don't live within the city limits, where to park. They suggest that we park in the hotel areas. And they are offering us county residents a 100 dollar parking pass to do so. This makes no sense except for the fact that it's about the money. It was suggested to them that all county residents have access to parking passes, just for the beach, but they quickly rejected that as it will not fit in with their "money" making plan. Most locals in Myrtle Beach don't even live in the city limits, but do keep the businesses afloat during the off season. We also are volunteers for the city by serving on committees, volunteering at the rec center, etc. Then they charge us 1% extra each time we frequent a business in the city limits. The city is treating locals who have lived their whole lives and raised their families here like outsiders and we do not appreciate their attitude. There was a petition signed by thousands protesting the parking plan, but the city didn't pay any attention to it. Hundreds of people who signed it actually do live within the city limits and think that the city "leaders" are completely out of line. Also, the city doesn't seem to care that a portion of our state taxes pay for beach re-nourishment of the "public beaches". If they want to treat us like second class citizens, then the re-nourishment should stop as well.

It would be appreciated if you would intervene on behalf of the real locals of Myrtle Beach. My family has lived in Myrtle Beach since 1948 and we have witnessed many changes, but this

current administration will not be happy until they completely kill our hometown and try to turn it into something that it is not.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Brenda O. Moore

Brenda O. Moore
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