



Kern Studios

233 Newton St.
P.O. Box 6307
New Orleans, LA 70174
(504) 362-8211
FAX (504) 361-3164
Website: www.kernstudios.com

Creating Mardi Gras Magic and Themed Entertainment Worldwide

June 12, 2006

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am in total support of the ferry going back to its regular hours. Not only is it detrimental to Algiers Point, Algiers and the Westbank but also to the Eastbank. And not only to its citizens but the businesses also.

Consider the employees and labor force that the Westbank provides. Consider those that have chosen to find employment on the Westbank or those who, especially at this time, have chosen to relocate to the Westbank based upon the decision to utilize the ferry as their main form of transportation

Consider the businesses. For instance, Mardi Gras World is open 7 days a week all year round and hosts special events mostly in the evenings on any given day. As a matter of fact we are expecting over a thousand guests for an event a week and a half from now. And of course, we host our 'free' Open House for the 4th of July Celebration for tourists to view the fireworks annually. The fireworks go off at 9:00PM. Mardi Gras World is New Orleans' #1 'party attraction' and over 90% of our customers arrive by ferry. We have lost millions since the hurricanes and have just now slowly started to rebuild.

Tourism is not only our bread and butter but also the City of New Orleans' major economic draw. If we are to bring New Orleans back we need to consider all the factors.

PLEASE GET THIS BILL PASSED!

Blaine Kern
KERN STUDIOS



The Council

City of New Orleans

JAMES CARTER
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT C

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W70
1300 PERDIDO STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
(504) 658-1030
FAX (504) 658-1037

13 June 2006

The Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Blanco:

District C in New Orleans is connected across the Mississippi River by the oldest continuously operating ferry route in the United States. The Algiers Ferry daily carries hundreds of residents and tourists alike to jobs and recreation opportunities between two of the oldest neighborhoods in New Orleans, the French Quarter and Old Algiers. Linking two of the most populated and intact areas of New Orleans, it is an essential piece of the public transportation system, an economic engine in its own right, and an important part of New Orleans' heritage.

I am writing to urge you to restore the schedule of the Algiers Ferry to its pre-Katrina operating hours: 5:45 a.m. until 12 midnight. In addition, I encourage you to meet with representatives from Friends of the Ferry, who held a rally in front of the ferry landing last Friday evening. They will contact your office, and I hope that you will hear their concerns and their reasons for returning the ferry to its pre-Katrina hours of operation.

Retaining the French Quarter's economic base is imperative, and, as you know, French Quarter businesses are currently struggling valiantly to survive. It is critical that we do everything possible to bring customers to their doors. Given residents' valid concerns about traffic and parking in the French Quarter, the loss of nighttime ferry hours is having a direct and substantial negative economic effect on businesses on both sides of the river.

If you have any questions, or I can provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number. Thanking you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Carter", written over a horizontal line.

Hon. James Carter
Councilmember, District C

c Mr. Johnny B. Bradberry, Secretary, DOTD
Rep. Jeffrey J. Arnold, District 102
Ms. Fay Faron, Friends of the Ferry



The Council
City of New Orleans

ARNIE FIELKOW
COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W40
1300 PERDIDO STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
(504) 658-1058
FAX (504) 658-1068

June 14, 2006

Honorable Kathleen B. Blanco
Governor
State Capitol
4th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Friends of the Ferry

Dear Governor:

I hope this letter finds you well and congratulations on all your successes during the current session.

I had the opportunity to attend a rally last week sponsored by Friends of the Ferry, an organization attempting to reinstate the pre-Katrina midnight schedule for the Algiers-Canal Street Ferry. I wanted you to know that I am fully in support of this organization's efforts and would ask you to have a member of your staff meet with this group to hear their concerns. Their point person is Connie Burks at 504-363-9090.

Thank you for your great leadership and I look forward to working with you.

Yours very truly,

Arnie Fielkow
Councilmember At Large

AF/kd

Cc: Connie Burks

KEAN MILLER

KEAN MILLER HAWTHORNE D'ARNOUD McCOWAN & JARMAN LLP
LL&E Tower, 908 Poydras Street, Suite 1450, New Orleans, LA 70112

GLENN P. ORGERON, PARTNER
DIRECT DIAL: 504.585.3048 DIRECT FAX: 225.215.4134
GLENN.ORGGERON@KEANMILLER.COM

June 14, 2006

Via Facsimile No. 225-342-7099

Governor Kathleen Blanco
State Capital
Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Governor Blanco:

I am writing on behalf of the Algiers Economic Development Foundation in support of a bill that would mandate the Crescent City Connection Division, Department of Transportation and Development to return the Algiers/Canal Street Ferry to its pre-Katrina schedule. The availability of the subject Ferry has significant economic impact on the Algiers area, provides a means for late night workers to get to and from their jobs, and further enhances the opportunity for the City of New Orleans to return to its pre-Katrina employment levels. The current 8:45 p.m. return time keeps Algiers/Westbank residents at home rather than spending their night time dollars in the French Quarter and Central Business District tourist destinations. Further, the current 8:45 p.m. schedule eliminates workers' only option for convenient, inexpensive transportation across the river. Finally, heightened bridge traffic demands an alternative route. As a result, the Algiers/Canal Street Ferry needs to return to its pre-Katrina midnight schedule. The incremental cost of operating the Ferry beyond the 8:45 p.m. time frame would represent an investment by the State in order to obtain significantly greater returns in the form of employment, tourism dollars, and the reopening of tourist destinations which currently have curtailed hours of operations and/or limited scope of operations.

As you are aware, the mission of the DOTD is to deliver transportation and public works systems that enhance the quality of life and facilitate economic growth and recovery. The opening of the Algiers/Canal Street Ferry to its pre-Katrina schedule fits perfectly into that mission and certainly would facilitate economic growth and recovery of the City of New Orleans.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Algiers Economic Development Foundation, I would respectfully request that you cause to be introduced into the Senate and support a bill that would mandate to the DOTD the resumption of the pre-Katrina night schedule for the Algiers/Canal Street Ferry.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter which is of considerable importance to the economic recovery of our area. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

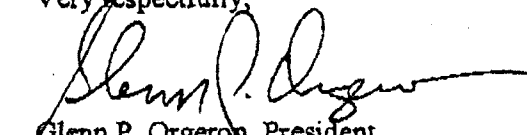
Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan, & Jarman, L.L.P.

Governor Kathleen Blanco

June 14, 2006

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Very respectfully,



Glenn P. Orgeron, President
Algiers Economic Development Foundation

GPO/tfh

Via Facsimile: 504-393-5809

cc: Representative Jeff Arnold



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
New Orleans Jazz
National Historical Park
419 Rue Decatur
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130



July 18, 2006

Honorable Kathleen Blanco
Governor
State of Louisiana

Dear Governor Blanco:

As the manager of a national park in the French Quarter of New Orleans I am deeply involved in heritage tourism, and equally committed to providing excellent service, a quality environment, and a satisfying experience for New Orleans visitors, residents, and employees. I am particularly concerned about the obvious demise of the Algiers Ferry and its negative impact upon heritage tourism and quality of life in New Orleans.

Historic Algiers Point (est. 1719) via the ferry has always been a heritage tourism destination. Interpreting jazz resources (Jazz Walk of Fame, musician's houses, music venues, and Mardi Gras World) on the Point, as well as on the river itself, are a critical part of this national park's mission. New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park was established by Congress in 1994 to preserve jazz as a national treasure. Jazz resources and stories need to be available to all people. The ferry operation is broken. It needs immediate attention, so that residents and visitors alike can continue to enjoy Algiers Point, and its jazz resources, as they always have.

The ferry is failing its stated mission. Further distressing is the fact that there is no evidence of customer and employee involvement in defining procedural improvements, and no emphasis on customer satisfaction.

Visitors, business colleagues, residents, and park employees state that quite the opposite is true. Ferry riders are treated like second-class citizens, not by the ferry employees, but by the management's practices and lack of concern for service. The leasing of the ferry to the movie industry for over a month is a good example of this attitude. Many employers, NPS included, had to adjust employee hours, and forgive repeated tardiness, to accommodate this ill-planned venture.

The current issue of reduced hours is just the tip of the iceberg. Hurricane Katrina and declining ridership are being presented as a defense against long prevailing inefficiencies. Not only do the hours of operation need extending, the entire operation needs overhaul. After these urgencies have been

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July 18, 2006

attended to, ferry management needs to focus on continuous improvements. New Orleans deserves nothing less as it struggles to recover and restore itself.

Sincerely,

John Quirk
Superintendent,
New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park
(504) 589-4806

cc: City Councilman James Carter
City Councilman Arnie Fielkow
City Councilman Oliver Thomas
Blaine Kern, Mardi Gras World
Fay Faron, Friends of the Ferry