

Thursday, August 12, 2021

'Letters to the Editor'

# Chamber responds to letter: Is not taking casino position

Editor,

Less than two years ago one Chamber of Commerce, committed to serving all businesses and communities, was born in St. Tammany Parish. Our board, composed of business leaders from across the parish, wisely recognized that this transition would be challenging and take time. Chamber leadership, staff, and loyal ambassadors have worked tirelessly to build and strengthen relationships, earn trust, and create unity with and among all business owners. We know that our parish will have a strong Chamber for future generations if we continue to work together.

Thank you for the coverage of the St. Tammany Chamber in your July 29 edition. Your editorial highlighted the pressure on elected officials to support or not support the proposed casino development. The front-page article was factual regarding the Chamber and St. Tammany Corporation's offer to meet with the newly formed group, Stand Up St. Tammany.

However, the accusations against the Chamber in Chandler Golitz's Letter to the Editor, published in your August 5 edition, are unequivocally false. I am writing to correct her unfortunate campaign of misinformation.

The Chamber's only position is to enable the citizens of St. Tammany to

have the right to vote on this economic development opportunity and provide them with accurate information about the proposed project. The Chamber Board of Directors reached a consensus that the Chamber does not intend to take a position on the resort and casino project. It is not the Chamber's role to review the legality of development contracts, nor do we have a "team of lobbyists."

Our neighbors deserve truthful and accurate information about this proposed project. The Chamber will continue to provide factual information on the casino project and other issues impacting area businesses or our quality of life.

Just as St. Tammany Parish needs an informed public, we also need brave elected officials to lead our parish and municipalities. That's why the Chamber encourages our leaders to do the right things and make sound decisions. Above all, we will maintain respect for our elected officials, members, and voters regardless of their stance on any particular issue. Because no matter the outcome of the November election, we are all still neighbors working together to make our parish better.

On behalf of our board of directors,

Tom Meyer  
2021 Chairman of the Board

## Cooper announces funding for parish-wide drainage plan

SLIDELL — St. Tammany Parish President Mike Cooper announced funding for the first Parish-wide Comprehensive Drainage Plan to implement critical stormwater manage-

ment on July 8. St. Tammany has been, and continues to be, at high risk for flooding events. The Louisiana Watershed Initiative Action Plan lists St. Tammany as one of the most impacted flooding issues. The Parish is forced to accommodate storm water that comes from outside of St. Tammany Parish borders and travels the various rivers through the Parish to its ultimate outfall. The Parish has