



February 5, 2014

Mr. Jay Smith  
Rear Commodore  
New Orleans Yacht Club  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Mr. Michael Carcaise  
Director  
Sails For Sustenance  
Coral Gables, FL

Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Haiti-New Orleans Heritage Task Force (“Task Force”) to recognize and thank you for the wonderful work you are doing to benefit Haiti’s subsistence fishermen through the Sails For Sustenance Program. Because of the Task Force’s locus in New Orleans, we are particularly delighted that the New Orleans Yacht Club has chosen to join in this effort, with Mardi Gras Race Week being its inaugural event.

We are very impressed by the innovation and practical utility of the Sails For Sustenance program, under which previously used sails are donated to needy subsistence fisherman operating mainly along the coast of Haiti’s Southern peninsula. Without these contributed sails, hardworking Haitian fishermen end up using garbage bags and tattered bed sheets for sails, which has had a considerable negative impact on their productivity. Donated sails greatly increase the speed of their fishing boats which enhances their efficiency, enlarges their catch and lessen their time spent on the water in order to feed their families. Additionally, larger sails can be reconfigured into tents and other shelter providing uses.

We heartily support the efforts of the New Orleans Yacht Club to stimulate the donations of sails from the New Orleans and Northern Gulf Coast areas to Sails For Sustenance, and wish to congratulate and thank Gulf Coast Bank & Trust for sponsoring Mardi Gras Race Week, which is a wonderful community event and the catalyst for this effort.

Most sincerely,

Dennis Kelly,  
Secretary

CC: Mr. Guy Williams, Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Company, New Orleans  
Hon. Georges Andy Rene, Directeur General, Center to Facilitate Investments, Port-au-Prince

Mr. Vladimir Laborde, Chief of Staff, Center to Facilitate Investments, Port-au-Prince  
Mr. John Williams, AIA, Co-Chair, Williams Architects, New Orleans  
Ms. Brooke E. Smith, Office of the Mayor, City of New Orleans, New Orleans  
Members and Stakeholders, Haiti-New Orleans Heritage Task Force