

## Resolution of Commendation

### Resolution commending the staff and Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for their tireless efforts to save the rich architectural heritage of the Mississippi Gulf Coast following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina

**Whereas**, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Mississippi Gulf Coast, leaving behind a landscape of devastation; and

**Whereas**, Hurricane Katrina has been called the worst historic preservation disaster in the history of our nation, destroying an estimated 75,000 historic resources; and

**Whereas**, countless other historic resources, including churches, schools, houses and cemeteries, were damaged by the wind and water of the storm; and

**Whereas**, in the days following Hurricane Katrina, the staff of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History came to the coast to assess the damage and lend assistance to owners of historic properties; and

**Whereas**, from October 2005 to May 2006, staff members Jennifer Baughn, Russell Archer, Richard Cawthon and Mingo Tingle led ten teams consisting of hundreds of volunteers from organizations including the Texas State Historic Preservation Office, the Association of Preservation Technology, Savannah College of Art and Design, Colonial Williamsburg and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to provide property owners with advice on how to stabilize and repair their damaged historic buildings; and

**Whereas**, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History worked closely with Mississippi's senators and representatives to lobby successfully for an unprecedented \$27.5 million dollars in funding to restore the architectural resources of Mississippi; and

**Whereas**, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History established the Gulf Coast Field Office to oversee the Katrina Relief Grant Program; and

**Whereas**, staff members Chelius Carter, Ron Miller, Leesa Harris, Trevor Brown, Jeff Rosenberg and Christy Worms spent countless hours assisting homeowners, cities, counties and civic organizations in the rebuilding effort; and

**Whereas**, Director of Historic Preservation Jim Woodrick worked diligently to coordinate the efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and local officials; and

**Whereas**, Deputy Director Ken P'Pool labored tirelessly to ensure that all options for restoration were made available to property owners; and

**Whereas**, Director Hank Holmes and the Board of Trustees worked hand in hand with staff members to support the restoration efforts; and

**Whereas**, over the past eight years, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has awarded 315 grants totaling \$27,567,000 for the restoration of 258 historic resources; and

**Whereas**, on December 31, 2013, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Gulf Coast Field Office will close its doors; and

**Whereas**, without the leadership, commitment, professionalism, expertise and compassion of the staff and Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Gautier and the Mississippi Gulf Coast would have lost countless historic treasures that had been damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

**Therefore**, be it resolved by Gautier, that the staff and Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History be commended for their tireless efforts to save the rich architectural heritage of the Mississippi Gulf Coast following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of Gautier, Mississippi to be affixed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2013.



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**Gordon Gollott, Mayor**