

XC: Brandon



23 January 2020

Mr. Mayor,

I want to thank you again for providing Beth and I an opportunity to come talk to you directly about our progress at the Zoo. It was not exactly the conversation I would like to have had at this point but reality set in and we will not be ready for an opening on February 1, 2020. The Zoo has truly come a long way since you and I last met, but it is not complete. Thank you for hearing us out and understanding our situation. Thank you for your support in offering to extend the City's commitment to the Zoo's success past the February 5th date. That commitment is integral to our overall success. I also understand that this will have to go in front of the Finance Committee for final approval. (I believe their next meeting is Tuesday, January 28th.) If there is anything that we can do to help support you in that meeting, please let me know.

Susan and I had a long conversation with David Ringlestein this morning. He expressed a strong concern over a covenant in the Bond document that requires us to have substantial completion by February 5th, though we do not have to be open nor completely done with construction. This stipulation includes a statement requiring us to have the final Certificate of Occupancy in hand by that date. With this in mind, we will be contacting the City to do a preliminary inspection very soon to help create a punch list of items needing to be done by February 4th, or earlier, so that we can arrange the final inspection for our CO and have that document in hand by the prescribed date.

If we can accomplish this and receive some type of documentation reflecting the extension of the City's commitment, it would help us considerably.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel M. Hamilton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joel M. Hamilton

Executive Director
Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo

RECEIVED

JAN 23 2020

**CITY OF GULF SHORES
CITY CLERK OFFICE**