

Mayor Gene McGee
Alderman Wesley Hamlin
Alderman Ken Heard
Alderman Kevin Holder

Alderman Chuck Gautier
Alderman Scott Jones
Alderman Brian Ramsey
Alderman D.I. Smith

304 Highway 51
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

Dear Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Ridgeland,

We, the following residents of Ridgeland, Mississippi, do hereby request 1) that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi, discontinue the support and encouragement of a Costco (or any other retail operation/structure/development that is incompatible with the surrounding residential neighborhoods) to be located on the property south of the Natchez Trace Property between I-55 and Highland Colony Parkway 2) that the city commit no monies or tax incentives to allow such development, specifically one with a Costco (or any other big box/warehouse retail operation 3) that the city enforce the restriction of transport trucks on Highland Colony Parkway 4) that the city maintain the roundabout as an aesthetically pleasing gateway to West Ridgeland, and 5) that high quality, low traffic considerations be used in developing the land in question.

On its website, the City of Ridgeland states “Ridgeland has an award-winning master plan that is being used to guide our community development efforts.” The master planning committee for the City of Ridgeland, along with the guidance of an outside planner, and *with community and citizen involvement from all across the city*, created that master plan and deemed the property located south of the Natchez Trace property between Highland Colony Parkway and I-55, as special. It was to be an overlay district or possibly city government offices. Plans do change, as in the relocation of city offices to Highway 51; but change does not alter the fact that the property where a Costco is being considered is worthy of careful consideration and development, because of its prime location adjacent to high end development *and* that a big box store, along with others who may normally locate in a like retail setting, are not compatible with the surroundings and its original intended use.

We understand that under your leadership the city of Ridgeland has grown and prospered from a tiny hamlet, to “one of the most decorated cities in the state of Mississippi.” It is our desire to keep it that way. We also take you at your word when you say that you want “to build a city that is a wonderful place to grow a family or a business.” It is our contention that building a Costco in the location planned, near high end residential neighborhoods, will destroy that “wonderful place.”

We urge the Mayor and, and the City Alderman to *stop this project* before it proceeds further.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Undersigned Residents of Ridgeland, Mississippi

