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Council Statement on Closing of Marshside Mama's Restaurant

Like other Daufuskie Islanders, our Council members were surprised and saddened to learn that Beth Shipman plans to close Marshside Mama's Restaurant in the near future. We wish Beth the very best in her future endeavors, and thank her for so many years of hard work and dedication in operating this iconoclastic island treasure.

Earlier this year Beaufort County officials announced their intention to seek a buyer for the Marshside Mama's restaurant and adjoining store. In response to an outpouring of concern from island residents, the Daufuskie Island Council urged the Beaufort County Council to reverse that decision. Subsequently, County officials indicated that they might instead be willing to give the building to the Daufuskie Island Council.

Since that time, we have been in discussions with the Daufuskie Island Co-Op to determine if it is indeed feasible for our Council to assume responsibility for this building. It had been our intention that both the Co-Op and Ms. Shipman would retain their respective management roles.

Notwithstanding Ms. Shipman's decision to close the restaurant, we will continue our discussions with the Co-Op and with the County, as well as seek legal advice about our potential role in preserving this important resource for the island community. We also plan to host a town hall meeting in early January for islanders to share suggestions and thoughts on this topic. We will be posting a date and time for this meeting sometime next week.

In the meantime, the Daufuskie Island Council is committed to serving as an advocate for our community on this important issue. Our very best to everyone for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

For questions or comments on this issue, please contact Councilman John Schartner at (843) 684-0714 or jsschartner@yahoo.com.

