

Miss Mississippi

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April 4, 2025

TO: Mayor and Board of Aldermen, City of Vicksburg – c/o Lisa Palmertree

FROM: The Miss Mississippi Corporation – Miss Mississippi's Teen Competition

SUBJECT: Waiver of Vicksburg City Auditorium Rental Fees

Gentlemen: I write this letter to ask for a waiver of rental fees for the use of the Vicksburg City Auditorium by the Miss Mississippi Teen Competition scheduled for later this month in April 2025.

I recently received an invoice estimate from Lisa Palmertree regarding our scheduled use of the auditorium for five days beginning April 23 and concluding April 27, 2025. This invoice estimate included a rental fee of \$1,500.00 per day for use of the auditorium. I understand and have no problem with the recent increase in the facility fees for the auditorium. My issue comes from the fact that in the past years we, Miss Mississippi's Teen Competition, have never had to pay for the cost of the auditorium rental because the City of Vicksburg waived those fees. However, we always paid for the cost associated with the attendants/custodial fees which usually amounted to approximately \$1,600.00 each year. I have no issue with agreeing to pay for attendants/custodial fees even at the recently increased rate which would amount to doubling what we have normally been responsible for paying in the past.

To be required to pay the 2025 estimated invoice of \$7,500.00 for auditorium use would put an insurmountable burden of the Miss Mississippi Teen program and for that reason I am asking the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to waive the \$750.00 per day rental portion of the fee. I would like to remind the Mayor and Board of the substantial income to our community that the Miss Mississippi Teen Competition's 650+ attendees generate from motel room usage, restaurants and other shopping especially in the downtown area of Vicksburg.

Should you have any questions give me a call at either the above office phone number or my cell phone number 601-831-3577.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.



H. J. "Winky" Freeman
Executive Director
Miss Mississippi's Teen Program