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to me

Mr. Warren: I wish the following comments read and recorded into the record on the matter of the Sandlass, Highland Beach, building. Thank you.

Randall Gabrielan,  
Appointed Historian, County of Monmouth,  
Commissioner, Monmouth County Historical Commission

Highland Beach, or Sandlass's, is important because the public and recreational New Jersey ocean shore began there. Various places now claim, nearly all without merit, that "the Jersey Shore begins here," but for the better part of a century the Jersey Shore began at Sandlass's. Highland Beach was an excursion resort which meant that it not only could but was designed to accommodate day-trippers, the ordinary citizen who could not afford or have the time for an overnight stay. Highland Beach was a resort of the people, by the people and for the people. This contrasts with the shore scenario in New Jersey and much of the country which is regarded as bizarre in most of the world where the ocean shore is usually the domain of the few, by the property owners and for the exclusionary wealthy.

I am a writer and historian and preserve history through the written word. As I do so I realize that the public in general experiences history through places, their ability to visit history and see history firsthand. I also work to encourage heritage tourism and promote preservation because I know the considerable value our built environment

contributes to our quality of life and the ability of the public to recognize and appreciate that history. This is why Sandlass's should be saved and utilized to promote history. The challenges to do so are daunting, but those committed to making it happen deserve the opportunity to do so.