

For Immediate Release

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Charleston WATERKEEPER® Hotline Established (843) 608-WATR
Help Protect Your Local Waterways and Your Common Right to Clean Water

Charleston, SC – August 18, 2009: You are riding your bike down East Bay St. on a late summer evening. Restaurant employees loiter outside a local establishment as you cruise by, but as you pass you realize that they are not lingering after a late shift, but in fact discharging raw sewage into the nearest drainage ditch. A drainage ditch that leads directly into the Charleston Harbor. As you ponder your next day on the water, you shudder to think what you might swallow as you dive in to cool off.

Local, environmental non-profit organization, Charleston Waterkeeper, strives to provide a solution to a growing problem. And with the establishment of the Charleston Waterkeeper hotline (843-608-WATR), local citizens may now call and text suspicious acts they witness involving local waterways. With its inception less than a year ago in September 2008, Charleston Waterkeeper, a community watchdog organization that monitors the environmental integrity of our waterways and takes action against violators, became the only local non-profit organization solely representing Charlestonians in the public fight to protect clean water.

Community involvement, however, is the most integral part of the Waterkeeper program. As citizens, we are obliged to protect our waterways, a fundamental right given to all people. As government agencies squander to fund even the most basic social programs, our natural resources are in jeopardy due to this lack of resources and oversight. Charleston Waterkeeper relies on the support of the public to protect their right to the commons. Whether you're taking a stroll down East Bay St. or out on the water, play your part in protecting our local waterways. Contact Charleston Waterkeeper with suspicious acts by dialing (843) 608-WATR or (843) 608-9287 (this number will also accept text messages).

Charleston Waterkeeper, a local non-profit organization founded in 2008, endeavors to preserve, protect and improve the quality of Charleston's waterways. Encouraging citizens to take pride, take responsibility and take action, Charleston Waterkeeper empowers the public to take back our rights to clean water. As part of the action steps mandated by the Waterkeeper Alliance, a network of 191 Waterkeeper programs spanning six continents, Charleston Waterkeeper regularly monitors the environmental integrity of Charleston's waterways and pursues each documented violation, ensuring that our basic right to clean water is protected. To gain more information regarding Charleston Waterkeeper or to get involved, visit www.charlestonwaterkeeper.org or email info@charlestonwaterkeeper.org.

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