From: Brett, Elliott
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: So I hear...
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 1:32:52 PM

Mr. Owen,

I hear that the decision to impact Coconut Beach by taking a portion or all of this recreational facility for pumping station staging area is based partly upon the lack of email in support of the playground, whereas II Tony's has received over 2300 emails supporting it.

That is a foolish basis.

I can guarantee that II Tony's has fewer clients per week than Coconut Beach. It's really easy for people to send an email, but true votes come with a presence. I helped rebuild Coconut Beach after Katrina with my own sweat and muscle, I play in two leagues per week, and I participate in the tournaments on Monday night and weekends. I support the pro-shop by purchasing clothes, and I support the bar and grill. In my 10 years as a Lakeview resident, I've been to II Tony's one time. It was nice enough. I don't wish any harm upon them. I didn't start going to Coconut Beach until 8 years ago, and I didn't actually know about II Tony's, or any of the other Bucktown area restaurants until I became a regular at Coconut Beach.

Why does any of this matter? Who am I? Well, I'm one of the young professionals, in an engineering firm for the offshore oil and gas industry, that has helped to rebuild the city. My wife is an engineer in the aerospace industry in New Orleans.

After Katrina, I bought a house in Lakeview, because of my love of Lakeview and Coconut Beach, to be closer to the people and activities that make this city worthwhile to me. I was and am excited about living in New Orleans because of my community at Coconut Beach. If Coconut Beach goes away, I will start listening to my wife and leave this city. She already says there isn't enough to do here besides drink and eat.

I hope you come out to see the community that will be destroyed by the action that is currently proposed.

I remember the meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church where the Corps of Engineers vowed not to get rid of Coconut Beach. Were you the tall guy who said all that?

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