From: mannyr35@cox.net
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: coconut beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 3:51:17 PM

Mr. Owen,

I'm sadden to hear that Coconut Beach may be replaced with the pumping station at the Bucktown Canal.

Coconut Beach has become the very fabric of New Orleans and has countless stories of its use.

I started using Coconut Beach in 1990 (it started in 1989). My children would make sand castles while friends and family enjoyed the use of the volleyball nets. I would take my kids there to play volleyball games and teach them volleyball skills. I even coached volleyball St. Angela grammer school, and we would go out there for skill development.

My oldest daughter obtained a college scholarship in volleyball. We spent countless hours on the sands of Coconut Beach doing drills because my daughter wanted to be the best she can be. My youngest daughter (junior at St. Mary Dominican) is looking to get a volleyball scholarship in beach volleyball (they've just introduced the beach volleyball program last year). Coconut Beach is my youngest daughter's life. She's won AAU junior chamionships at Coconut Beach and came in 4th place in the 14U when AAU had their Junior Olympics in New Orleans (2 California and 1 Puerto Rico teams placed 1,2 &3).

I'm 48 and still belong to league play once a week and attend the weekend tournaments with my wife and children. Coconut Beach is one of the last great places you can go for free and enjoy the sun, sand, exercise, play volleyball, socialize with other volleyball friends at the Bar and is a great wholesome atmosphere for any family.

Coconut Beach is a jewel of this Greater New Orleans! You must please preserve it and find other means to protect our great City. To lose Coconut Beach is like losing your arm. You can survive without it, but at what cost? At what cost will the City suffer without Coconut Beach.

Coconut Beach is one of the most viable free recreation areas in this City. I heard there's 4,000 members at Coconut Beach. That's just for 3 seasons. Is there any other place that can boast those numbers and have such a positive impact on our City?

Please keep Coconut Beach intact and find alternative methods to protect our Great City. We are becoming a City of New Beginnings, but let us keep some of our landmarks and traditions and fun recreation that's been around for twenty years.

Thank You, Manny Randazzo 504-606-3703