From: Arden Ballard
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: save Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 6:24:07 PM

Mr. Gib Owen,

The Mickey Retif Sports Complex and Coconut Beach have been crucial components the beach volleyball community, the numerous high-school, college, young professional and mature adult athletic enthusiasts, and the hundreds of children that benefited from the millions of dollars raised from the establishment for over 20 years. it's not only an important outlet for these people and a way of life for others, but it's a part of the New Orleans spirit and community. Some individuals, including myself (while growing up and working in New Orleans all but this past year), have been to Coconut beach as a young boy and know that the establishment represents family and community and philanthrophy unlike ANY other establishment in the City. From what I understand, this establishment is being threatened to be removed for the sake of a water pump. Where I also understand the importance of saving the city from a future potential natural disaster, doing so in this manner will in turn destroy part of the city--and it's heritage.

Sir, There MUST be alternatives to benefit both parties. From someone who has no engineering background, I DO know that the other side of the canal ha been empty and vacant for many years. It would seem logical to me to place the pump there and away from the residencies and other establishments. All I ask is that you RECONSIDER tearing down one of the most unique and wonderful places New Orleans locals take advantage of. Tearing down the Mickey Retif Sports Complex and Coconut Beach simply should not happen.

thank you so much for your time, and I hope that this issue can be resolved.

Sincerely,

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