From: doug brown
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 8:24:51 PM

Mr. Owen,

I'm actually quite frustrated with the news I heard about the Army Corps of Engineers slating to take 10-100% of Coconut Beach property for the pumping station.

On one hand, I want the Army Corps to do the best job possible to build the best possible pumping station in the best possible location. If that's where Coconut Beach sits, then so be it, but I know ACE has been looking at II Tony's as well. Here's my point -- DON'T listen to all the "not in my backyard" hype.

On the other hand, I have played ball at Coconut Beach for 6 years now, and absolutely love it. I've even put in volunteer time on weekends to help get it back up and operational after Katrina, it means that much to me. I play 2-4 times a week and wouldn't want to do anything else during that time.

I absolutely love this city. I am a transplant from Pennsylvania, I graduated from Tulane in 2002, and I've been here ever since.

If the pumping station has to be built where Coconut Beach now sits, so be it. But please make it fair. If we have to move, we will move. There are thousands of us that will be "homeless" without the beach, but all you've got to do to make it right is help us put the beach up somewhere else. Yes, that will cost your project extra money. Factor that into the equation that says where the most cost effective location to build the pumping station will be. If you need II Tony's land, factor in moving them as well.

We want you to do a good job, we don't want another Katrina to put us under. So by all means, please do what is necessary to protect our great city. But if you must displace anyone in order to make it happen, help make it right to those individuals. If we have to move to the parking lot across the street or City Park or the in-progress Lafitte Corridor, I think any of us would be fine with that, as long as the relocation project doesn't take years.

Thanks for your time, I hope both our interests, your interest, and most of all the interests of the city can be met.
Doug Brown