From: David Morris
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Save Coconut Beach!
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 4:43:28 PM

Mr Owen,

I write you today on behalf of Mickey Retif Sports Complex and Coconut Beach. I urge you to consider how valuable this facility is to the community before you decide on the future of the Orleans Parish Pump Station.

Like so many, I practically grew up at Coconut Beach. I have countless fond memories of sunny days spent playing volleyball with family and friends. In high school, my memories grew to include serving on the planning committee for Slam 'N Jam. Seeing all of the rivalries of the area's Catholic schools put aside and watching them come together for such a noble cause was something I will forever be proud of.

Although I have been away from New Orleans for some years now, I have plans to expand my business down there within the next three years. The expansion will be accompanied with moving my family back to the city I love. My son, who insists we visit Coconut Beach on every trip to see my parents, is excited about the move for the sole reason of being closer to his favorite New Orleans activity- volleyball at Coconut Beach. While you may see this as an isolated incident, I see it differently. I see it as a testament to the inherent spirit of New Orleans that transcends generations, and there is no better example of that than iconic Coconut Beach. It would sadden me greatly, not to mention my son, if this wonderful part of my childhood were no longer there for him to experience.

I'll close by once again asking you to consider the immense value that Mickey Retif Sports Complex and Coconut Beach bring to not only the West End community, but to the entire New Orleans Metro area. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Morris