From: Jessica White
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Save Coconut Beach!
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 10:01:21 AM

Mr. Owen,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing you to let you know how important Coconut Beach is to the New Orleans Community. I understand that at first glance, Coconut Beach is just a playground - nothing special. I assure you that this assumption is absolutely incorrect.

Coconut Beach is a community, it is a family, and for so many it IS New Orleans. Coconut Beach is where so many of our citizen go to work out, blow off steam, grab a drink, meet a friend, and relax. Coconut Beach is people's gym, neighborhood bar, dating service, and psychiatrist. It is their third place - a place outside of work and home that is theirs.

On any given night, you will see entire families playing in the sand, people walking their dogs, and newcomers being welcomed with open arms. I've spent my entire life at Coconut Beach, and I can tell you the impact it has had on people's lives is incredible. So many lost and confused kids who could have easily fallen through the cracks found the beach and found a way to spend their Saturday Nights not on Bourbon St. Instead, they learned a sport, learned discipline, and now continue to give back to the community. It has been where people have met their significant others (its even held a wedding!). To remove Coconut Beach would destroy over 20 years of hard work that not just the staff but the entire community has created.

Additionally, Coconut Beach provides a tremendous number of tax dollars every year that go back to maintaining the West End Area. Why would you choose to destroy a place that continues to give back to the community?

Coconut Beach has lost its land once, and came back - rebuilt entirely by private money. It can not afford to do this again. By choosing to move Coconut Beach, you will be destroying one of the most unique things this city has to offer.

We all agree that there needs to be better protection of our city. No one doubts the necessity of a pumping station. All that I ask, is that when looking at Coconut Beach - please don't think of it as solely a recreational space. It is so much more. It is equivalent to some people's church's, their school, and their home. To impact Coconut Beach with this construction would be a huge loss for our great city.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jessica White

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