From: Reuling, Michael (MikeReuling)
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Please Save Coconut Beach
Date: Friday, May 15, 2009 12:45:38 PM

Mr. Owen,

I'm very much saddened to hear that we may lose Coconut Beach due to the relocation of the 17th street canal pump station. I know we all agree that doing the right thing to protect the city from future flooding is the number priority. However, I know there has to be a win/win alternative out there that will preserve Coconut Beach for the residents of not only New Orleans but the entire area.

As I'm sure you are aware Coconut Beach has become of model for developing healthily and safe inner-city recreation alternatives. Coconut Beach is not only a cherished asset to the people who play volleyball there, but it is a cornerstone for this historic section of the city. Regretfully I only started playing volleyball a year ago. However, I enjoy it so much that I play on two nights in each of the 3 sessions. When I share my new found passion with others, almost everyone is either playing, knows someone who is playing, or has played volleyball at Coconut Beach in the past. It just amazes me how people have had healthily positive experiences playing volleyball at Coconut Beach. The other thing that is very unique is the diversity of people who are there every night of the week. You have young adults, to teams made up of family members ranging from kids to parents to even grandparents, as in my case. Where else can you get such as cross-section of the community coming to one place to spend time together having good healthy fun.

In closing, I strongly encourage you to please find a solution that does not compromise flood protection, but maintains Coconut Beach for the enjoyment of our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Michael (Mike) Reuling
Business Planner

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