From: Colosino, JR
To: MVN Environmental;
cc: Marsh, Julie (BANK);
Subject: SAVE Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 10:00:20 AM
Attachments: Colosino, JR.vcf

Mr. Gibbs,

I am writing you on behalf of the Mickey Retif Sports Complex and Coconut Beach.

First, I understand that you have a job to do. I also understand that we, the people of this city, trust you to keep us and our city safe from natural disasters. I want you to do that job first and do that job well. I wish you the best in that endeavor and as a citizen of this city I want to say if there is anything I can do to help you keep us safe (besides pay my taxes) please let me know.

I also understand that some of the land you are considering for the site of your new 17th street pumping station is the Mickey Retif Sports Complex and Coconut Beach. This complex is part of what makes New Orleans the city I know and love. I have lived here for most of my life and grew up watching my parents play at the beach on Friday nights. The beach has always had a family atmosphere; it welcomes singles, parents, children and pets alike. It is a place where anyone of any skill level can come and play with our without a team. This beauty of this sport complex is its size and space. There are many courts where kids can run and play, where the adults can have a good competitive game and no one interferes with each other. This is a complex where families, pets and the like can get a drink, some dinner or a snack and play or just watch some good wholesome sand volleyball. There are penalties for cursing and unsportsmanlike play to keep a good example for those youngsters who are watching. This complex is a great place for the people of New Orleans can come to mingle. Hell, I met my future wife playing volleyball at Coconut Beach.

In addition, this sport complex is also where some of the best of the best in the country come to compete in many tournaments each year. The level of play at this complex rivals any in the country.

Also, this complex raises thousands and thousands of dollars for many different charities, namely Children's Hospital. It also holds one of the biggest single annual high school events in the city, Slam and Jam where thousands of high school kids come to play and raise money for charity.

Mr. Gibbs, these are just a few of the reasons to keep this place open and alive. Many of us will continue to make memories at this place if you allow it. Again, I am not here to tell you how to do your job. I want you to do what is best for us and best for our beautiful city. I just hope you can take a second look at this cite, and save us a little space to keep our complex alive.

Thank you for your time,

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