From: Parker Waters
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 10:01:53 AM

To: Gib Owen

I saw the following letter and quite honestly, I couldn't have said it better myself.

Thank you,

Parker Waters

Coconut Beach made such a difference in my son's life. He was like so many of our youth, bored feeling like there is nothing to do in the area but go out clubbing, drinking.

After joining a team at Coconut Beach, an old passion for the sport of volleyball was revived, he met lots of different people, and became concerned with being healthier and in better shape to play the sport.

Now he goes to Coconut Beach several times a week, training and playing on teams. He travels to Mississippi and Florida to participate in volleyball tournaments. How many other young people in our area have been helped this way by Coconut Beach over the last 21 years?

Lead stories in the local news lately are all about young people resorting to crime and about failing businesses. Why then are the Corps of Engineers wanting to destroy one of the only places left for young people to go and enjoy a afternoon or evening of sports? Why are the Corps of Engineers wanting to destroy a thriving business in New Orleans?

Not only do they want to take over the land at Coconut Beach, but they do not want to pay anything to compensate Coconut Beach.

I have an idea, instead of spending millions on improving public opinion, just try doing the right thing, the fair and moral thing for Coconut Beach. If there is no other way to complete the pumping station at 17th Street without taking over the current location of Coconut Beach, then pay to relocate Coconut Beach to land in the immediate area that has been left abandoned and underutilized.

Imagine the positive headlines for a change, "Corps of Engineers Help Save a Thriving Popular New Orleans Business; Coconut Beach".

Save Coconut Beach, save our youth, save a thriving business in New Orleans.

Thank you.

Peggy Prescott