From: Derek Zimmerman
To: MVN Environmental;
cc: white323@cox.net;
Subject: Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 10:29:06 AM

Dear Mr. Owen

My name is Derek Zimmerman. I have been playing volleyball at Coconut Beach since I was 16 years old. I am now 34. When I first played out their I didn't realize how this complex was going to change my life. I have always been a great athlete and played many sports growing up. The first two summers I played in only a few tournaments, but when I was 18 I became a full time player of leagues and tournaments. I started to excel at a fast pace and ventured out to other tournaments in the gulf coast. When I started to win many of the tournaments in the area I new that I wanted to pursue this to an even higher level. Bruce White and I talked about it and he thought the same thing. Coconut Beach at that point became a second home to me. Weather I was their training to be a better player or their as an employee, refereeing the leagues Tuesday through Friday. So instead of going out and just hanging with friends I was working and socializing with many people that I now call friends. Bottom line is that Coconut Beach saved me from being out on the streets and getting in trouble which I had done before.

Through all of the years I have been out their I have met many people and many friends. I have also made some of my dreams come true. I played at the top level of volleyball for 10 years on the AVP, and played with and against some of the greatest players in the country.

Coconut Beach is a way of life for many people in this city. It is their getaway every evening after a long day at work. It is what relaxes them and makes them forget about the worries of life. Mike Drury and Bruce White have made a wonderful place for people of all walks of life to come together and have fun. I would hate to see our beach taken away from us and the many people who may go their in the future. This is just one story of the thousands of people who walk out onto the sands of Coconut Beach.

Thank you for your time.

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