From: Steven Totora
To: MVN Environmental;
Subject: Save Coconut Beach
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 3:50:06 PM

Dear Mr Owen
I'm writing you this email in the hopes that you understand what Coconut Beach means to me and the community.
18 years ago, the first time I put my feet in the this complex, I didn't know myself what that was going to mean for the rest of my life. Coconut beach became a place where I have meet most of my friends where some of my friends have met and formed their Families and where now all of our children play together. Coconut Beach closes a gap between people of all backgrounds in our community and where families can trust their kids will be in a safe environment. Through out many years Coconut Beach has is an outlet where people can stay fit and develop good habits, where people develop relationships, where we all can feel good about ourselves and our community.
After Katrina Coconut Beach was rebuilt with the help of many of its life long members and supporters because it's right, because it was missing because it was needed. Katrina brought a lot of pain and dark times for many; Coconut Beach did the opposite, it has reunited a large part of our community and that number just like before keeps growing, loosing our complex would be nothing short of Katrina magnitude, it would tear our Coconut Beach Family apart, it would live a whole where normalcy and sense of community and belonging once was.
Loosing our complex would break many hearts and would send the wrong message about what is important in our community by ripping away even more than Katrina. Many feel the message from our government after Katrina was, we don't care, some still feel that way after loosing it all, certainly the circumstances of the failures in the levee and canal breaches, the slow response time for help don't help this sentiment. Don't allow another wrong to happen, don't allow a positive in our lives, in our city, in our future to be ripped away.
Mr Owen save our Coconut Beach, save this big part of our lives and our community.
Thanks

Steve Totora