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PROVIDED BY
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SEP 3, 2014

CHAIR OF
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY BOARD

September 3, 2014

Jack Seiler, Mayor
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Lee Feldman, City Manager
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Anthony Abbate, Chair
Beach Redevelopment Board
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mayor Seiler, Mr. Feldman and Mr Abbate:

I'm sorry for the tardy nature of this letter, but I hope this will help in your efforts to build a first-class aquatic facility in the city of Fort Lauderdale.

I would first like to say that USA Swimming is incredibly thankful for the many years that the city of Fort Lauderdale has spent promoting aquatics and hosting events. I still remember, like it was yesterday, the U.S. Nationals at the Hall of Fame pool in 2002, at which a 16-year old Michael Phelps had the breakout competition of his career, setting a world record in the 400 IM.

In regard to your efforts to build a "world class" facility, I do believe that the city should consider re-evaluating the plans that are currently in place. USA Swimming does have a serious concern about bringing major events to a facility that has a four-story vertical difference between a competition pool and the warm-up pool. This would present a challenge for athletes and coaches on a number of fronts, specifically, the climbing of a significant amount of stairs in order to get to and from the pools. There is also a concern about having a warm-up area so far removed from the competition pool with athletes of all ages, in particular with supervision of those athletes.

I would also like to add that having two 50-meter pools, side-by-side, would put Fort Lauderdale in an elite category of facilities around the U.S. If the pools had the proper lane width and depth, that would be a huge advantage for attracting international and national competitions to your city.

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If you would like to speak further about this, our National Events Director, Dean Ekeren, and I would be happy to help in any way possible. We can be reached at (719) 866-4578.

Thank you very much for your time, and I wish you the best as you proceed with this plan.

Sincerely,



Mike Unger
Assistant Executive Director

cc: Chuck Wielgus, Executive Director, USA Swimming
Dean Ekeren, National Events Director, USA Swimming
Jay Thomas, Member, USA Swimming Board of Directors

