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CITY COMMISSION

February 10, 2015 FEB 24 AM 9:12

Mayor and City Commissioners
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 N. Andrews Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;

For many years, I visited Fort Lauderdale as a tourist. Her welcoming atmosphere, cleanness and the Aquatic Center were the reasons I moved here permanently. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you for the extraordinary work you have been doing as policy makers to keep improving this city. Fort Lauderdale is not only the most popular tourist destinations worldwide and the larger city in Broward County, but also it is a destination for international swimmers.

As the elected officials for the City of Fort Lauderdale, I would like you to consider the benefits of building a world-class Aquatic Center. As per today, the center attracts many tourist and swimmers, coaches, teams, families and support groups: No doubt it is an iconic place. However, the Center is in such a poor shape that people feel disappointed just looking at the facility.

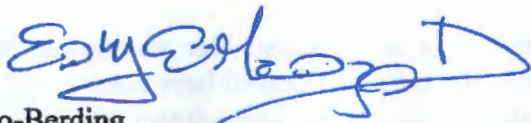
The community, the swimmers, the parents and the teams that come from all over United States and the world deserve more than cosmetics repairs and fixing certain features. We expect to have an Aquatic Center that can be compared with other international swimming arenas. A center with capacity to host high level competitions, becomes a sources of revenue and employment for the city or Fort Lauderdale.

In order to be able to host top-level swim, dive, synchro and water polo competitions we need a new top-to-bottom Aquatic Center. Currently the facility is becoming very rundown, an eye-sore and embarrassment to the city. There are swimmers, divers and fitness enthusiasts all over the US and world anticipating the construction of this new world class facility. The city deserves a state of the art facility that continues to be the iconic tourist and sport destinations for the years to come.

The Aquatic Center is not only a major investment in our economy, but also in our community. Swimming embraces everyone from baby to senior, young to old, and all socio-economic rungs/status. For the citizens of Fort Lauderdale (Venice of America, with the beach and waterways) we need to teach them water safety, how to swim, give them a fitness option and competitive advantage. For those who will come (and they will) to Fort Lauderdale to use the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center we want to give them an unforgettable experience.

We respectfully would like to appeal to your sense of future, your unconditional support to sports and your commitment to your local constituents to build a world-class Aquatic Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eddy Manzo-Berding', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Eddy Manzo-Berding

Mother of a girl who loves to swim with the Fort Lauderdale team
eddymanzo@yahoo.com

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Mayor And City
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