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CITY COMMISSION

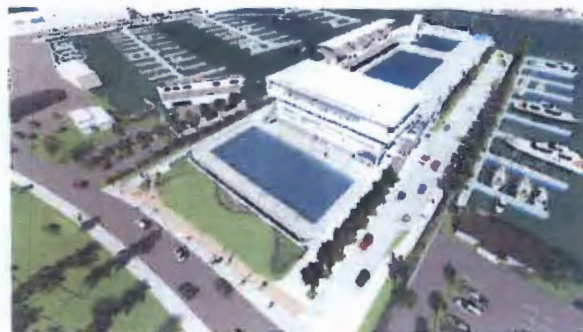
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ALL
COMMISSIONERS
RECEIVED

To: Mayor Jack Seiler

***Correspondence expressing support for
building the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic
Complex***

(Prepared for Wednesday, Feb 25th Special Meeting)



From the desk of:

Debby Eisinger
25 Hendricks Isle
Unit 102
Fort Lauderdale, FL
mayordebby@gmail.com

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

February 18, 2015

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;

Unquestionably your job as policy makers for the largest City in Broward County and one of the most popular tourist destinations worldwide is very challenging. I applaud you for your dedication and commitment to the citizens of Fort Lauderdale.

As the elected officials for the City of Fort Lauderdale, I implore upon you to assert your leadership skills and prioritize the construction of a world-class Aquatic Complex. Band-aids cannot be a solution. Renovations and repairs will prohibit the complex from being a host to various swim and dive events. The residents of Fort Lauderdale as well as swimmers, fitness enthusiasts and divers world-wide have anticipated the construction of this world class facility for greater than 12 years.

Although the facility continues to be well utilized by the local community, swim clubs and swim teams worldwide as well as visitors who choose Fort Lauderdale as their vacation destination largely because of the availability of an aquatic facility for personal fitness, in its current condition it is an embarrassment to Fort Lauderdale. I don't think that anyone would dispute the fact that the facility is an eye-sore and has become a blemish to our otherwise stellar park and recreational facilities.

As a former Mayor, I understand the importance of focusing on economic development. For many years, our tourist competition up and down the Florida coastlines has been limited. We are no longer the "only kid on the block" when it comes to offering a tropical beach vacation destination. Our competition has grown with the development of other coastal communities along the east and west coastlines of Florida from the Panhandle to the southern tip of the Keys. A state-of-the-art Aquatic Complex separates us from all other coastal resorts. Swimming and dive competitions take place year round. Visitors world-wide plan "swim-cations." Swimmers, triathletes, and fitness enthusiasts who target Florida for vacation choose Ft Lauderdale over other coastal resorts because of our Aquatic Complex! Let's not lose this desirable group of tourists to another City.

From the desk of:

Debby Eisinger
25 Hendricks Isle
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Fort Lauderdale, FL
mayordebby@gmail.com

(page 2)

I understand a major concern from the City Commission is the cost to run the facility. Unquestionably it will run at a deficit. It should be common knowledge that municipal park and recreation facilities are not designed to be profitable. Cities are in the business of providing the services that private industry will not as there is no money to be made. Government agencies exist for the purpose of providing public safety, fire rescue, libraries, sports and recreation facilities, safe roadways, clean waterways, sidewalks, water supplies, sewer services, public education, various social services, and other essential needs. Successful government services contribute to a healthy economy. Fort Lauderdale as a major world-wide tourist destination must continue to invest in its public services if it is to succeed in attracting tourists.

Having reviewed the Five-Year Operating Pro Forma with several other swimmers and business owners, I question the accuracy of the projections. It is my understanding that the data is based on facility usage from recent years. This would result in underestimated projections regarding facility usage and economic impact to the City and surrounding businesses. Due to the blighted condition of the pools and significantly outdated facilities, the City has been restricted in the number and types of meets it could host these past several years. Also, as a result of the less than favorable condition of the facility, it is very likely that the swim programs for all ages have suffered along with the ability to rent the facility to out-of-state clubs, colleges and other groups.

In today's style of operating government, public/private partnerships are proving to be successful endeavors. As an avenue for offsetting the fiscal costs of operating the facility, perhaps the City should pursue a program of granting naming rights to the entire complex and/or portions of the complex. There exists unlimited opportunities for pursuing such a program.

The Aquatic Complex is not only a **major** investment in our economy, but also in our community. In addition to being a tourist capital of the world, Fort Lauderdale offers outstanding quality of life for residents from all walks of life. The City is an excellent place to raise a family, an ideal location for "empty-nesters," perfect for young professionals and very welcoming to all regardless of life style choices. Swimming is a healthy activity and a lifelong activity.

Swimming embraces everyone from the womb to the tomb. Young and old like to swim. It is a great sport for everyone regardless of socio-economic status. The cost to swim is nominal and therefore even our fellow residents on restricted budgets can easily swim.

From the desk of:

Debby Eisinger
25 Hendricks Isle
Unit 102
Fort Lauderdale, FL
mayordebby@gmail.com

(page 3)

There is no doubt (actually there exists empirical data) that living a healthy lifestyle and engaging in fitness programs keeps our kids out of trouble, helps them perform better academically and results in less sick days. Unlike team sports and many individual sports, swimming is unique in that those with lower skill levels are not singled out, teased, cut from a team or embarrassed. Actually the opposite is true. For our more competitively challenged youth and adults, swimming helps to build self-esteem and self-image.

If it is the City's goal is to sustain and enhance its reputation as a health conscious community and attract fitness enthusiasts word-wide to vacation and /or live in the City, please do the right thing and move forward with the already approved Aquatic Facility plans without any further delay. Again, **it has been 12 years since the City made the commitment to build a world-class Aquatic Facility.**

Should you wish to contact me for further discussion prior to your meeting on February 25th, please feel free to call at your convenience. I can be reached at: 954-253-9538

Sincerely,


Debby Eisinger
Proud Fort Lauderdale Resident



February 18, 2015

Dear Mayor Seiler and City Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the new Aquatic Center on Ft Lauderdale Beach. As an owner of a franchised restaurant located in the Westin hotel on the beach for the last eighteen years I have personally seen the positive impact the Aquatic Center brings to the area. There are thousands of swimmers, their families, & supporters, who stay in the beach hotels and dine in the beach front restaurants. Their impact is also felt in the retail sector and other areas. The importance of maintaining economic diversity on the beach cannot be understated. Ft Lauderdale Beach stands alone among urban seaside communities who can offer a world class experience for swimming and diving enthusiasts. We need to build on the asset we have by having an Aquatic Complex which will put Ft. Lauderdale Beach at the top of destinations for swimming and diving meets, training, & recreation.

Your predecessors saw the need to upgrade the facilities over a decade ago. It's time to move forward and build it. Our job as concerned citizens and yours as the Mayor & Commissioners is to continue to enhance the assets we have along the beach. The Aquatic Center provides an opportunity continue to distinguish Ft. Lauderdale Beach as a location offering a unique facility in a picturesque setting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Shula
President



Shula's Steak Houses, LLLP
3020 NE 32nd Avenue, Suite 347 • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
Phone (954) 393-1920 • Fax (954) 537-3313
www.donshula.com



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

February 20, 2015

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;

I have been a regular member of the master's swim program for over 5 years and utilize the Aquatic Complex at least 3 times per week. I am a local business and home owner.

As the elected officials for the City of Fort Lauderdale, I implore upon you to assert your leadership skills and prioritize the construction of a world-class Aquatic Complex. Band-aids cannot be a solution. Renovations and repairs will still prohibit the complex from being a host to various swim and dive events and the facility will continue to be an embarrassment to this city. The residents of Fort Lauderdale as well as swimmers, fitness enthusiasts and divers world-wide have anticipated the construction of this world class facility for greater than 12 years.

Although the facility continues to be well utilized by the local community, swim clubs and swim teams worldwide as well as visitors who choose Fort Lauderdale as their vacation destination largely because of the availability of an aquatic facility for personal fitness, in its current condition it is an embarrassment to Fort Lauderdale. I don't think that anyone would dispute the fact that the facility is an eye-sore and has become a blemish to our otherwise stellar park and recreational facilities.

Signage to the Swimming Hall of Fame is the sole common posting all of our major feeder highways. In my opinion this is a clear indicator of the importance of this facility. As a local business owner I understand the importance of focusing on economic development. I also understand a major concern from the City Commission is the cost to run the facility. Fort Lauderdale as a major world-wide tourist destination must continue to invest in its public services if it is to succeed in attracting tourists.

The Aquatic Complex is not only a **major** investment in our economy, but also in our community. In addition to being a tourist capital of the world, Fort Lauderdale offers outstanding quality of life for residents from all walks of life. The City is an excellent place to raise a family, an ideal location for "empty-nesters," perfect for young professionals and very welcoming to all regardless of life style choices. Swimming is a healthy activity and a lifelong activity.

Swimming embraces everyone from the womb to the tomb. Young and old like to swim. It is a great sport for everyone regardless of socio-economic status.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Graeme Lord", is written over a horizontal line.

Graeme Lord

Fairport Yacht Support

1535 Southeast 17th Street Causeway, Suite 208. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33316 * 954 990 6482

Linda Webb
1414 S.E. 12th Street, Unit 2B
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
954-328-6477
sftllinda@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Seiler, City Commissioners, and Mr. Feldman,

I want to thank you for your consideration of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic re-build. As a fervent supporter of the project, I appreciate the attention you are giving to its future. As a City resident, I am grateful for your scrutiny. I urge you to move forward without further delays.

My interest in this project arises on multiple fronts. Nine years ago, as we contemplated retirement, my husband and I chose Fort Lauderdale over other cities because of the opportunities to pursue our passions: competitive swimming, cycling, and boating. For me, the swimmer in the family, it was a golden opportunity to swim in the iconic facility I had admired from afar for decades. It soon became apparent, however, that my "dream pool" was in a state of decay, and over the past 9 years, it has reached the point of embarrassment for our city.

As a supporter of all things aquatic, I have volunteered at multiple swimming events. How inspiring to watch hundreds of youthful athletes in pursuit of their swimming goals. Sadly, those events are no longer happening. Imagine the revenue to local businesses that has been lost. College teams no longer come for their winter training. More lost business.

As a Masters Swimmer, I have traveled all over the U.S. and to multiple foreign countries representing Swim Fort Lauderdale. I am consistently approached by other swimmers who share their own youthful experiences at the Aquatic Complex. To swimmers, swimming and Fort Lauderdale are synonymous! What follows are a few comments from folks who have fond memories of our beautiful city:

"What a facility! I swam there in 1990 when at NOVA for summer law school. I returned there in January 2012 for a family vacation. I was able to swim twice with the Fort Lauderdale masters. It brought back great memories. I have been proud to say I have been able to swim in the country's premier pool facility in my opinion."

"I spent two consecutive winter college training camps at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center with the University of Iowa. Some of my fondest memories from college at and around the pool. Not only was the pool awesome, but the location was phenomenal."

"My memories of swimming there did prompt a vacation with my family a few years back.....It would be a shame to see this pool close."

"I have traveled to Florida as an adult a number of times and chosen Fort Lauderdale as a direct result of the facility. I've been eager to see its redevelopment and would be very disappointed to see the facility close. I would certainly reconsider by business and personal travel destinations were that to happen."

"I attended the 2002 USA-S Summer Nationals and watched Natalie Coughlin become the first woman to break the 1:00 barrier in the 100 LCM backstroke. I still have one lifetime personal best swim from that meet, which I will probably remember for a long time. With the variety of high level meets that it has hosted, I can only imagine the thousands of people with memories"

As you can see, the impact of The Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex extends well beyond the borders of our city. It is important that this legacy continues for future generations. Right now, we're a "has been" in the swimming world. We need to move forward with the current design as soon as possible so that we can re-establish Fort Lauderdale as the preeminent competition and training facility in the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Webb". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Webb" clearly distinguishable.

Mrs. Stefana Taylor
1540 NW 96th Avenue
Plantation, Florida 33322
(954) 599-3106

February 22, 2015

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;

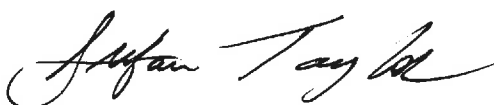
I would like to express my strong support for construction of a new state of the art Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Complex. The current facility is enjoyed year round by both locals, and visitors alike. When the facility is properly updated it will surely be a destination for swimmers and divers from around the world.

I can understand that the facility might be a cost neutral operation but as a landmark and attraction it is priceless. The open space of the pool facility is not an asset one could easily put a price tag on. A satellite view of the beach area clearly shows how much of Fort Lauderdale has been already been lost to sprawl. The aquatics facility is a wonderful open space to enjoy Fort Lauderdale at it's finest. Open, public space is in short supply in the City. Any decrease in usable public space would do irreparable damage.

As a new swimmer I have entered the world of Masters Swimming just two years ago. I've found swimming a sport like no other that can be enjoyed by all ages. The low impact workout can not be duplicated by any other sport. The Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Complex is valuable asset to all swimmers and divers. The pool is also used to teach swimming. Personally, I have lost three people close to my family from drowning, so the issue of swim safety is very important to my family. One cannot put a price on the importance of this either.

Please move forward with construction of the new facility as soon as possible. The benefits of the pool cannot be quantified. Not having an Aquatics Complex in Fort Lauderdale is like not having a public beach. The thought is unconscionable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefana Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stefana Taylor
Swim Fort Lauderdale- Masters Team

Jeanine J. Zook
4280 Galt Ocean Dr. #7M
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

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

February 22, 2015

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;

As the elected officials for the City of Fort Lauderdale, please carefully review the long delayed plans for construction of a world-class Aquatic Complex.

My personal exposure to the Fort Lauderdale facility has several components. I moved to Fort Lauderdale ten years ago. In the years before my move I knew of the Fort Lauderdale facility as the pool where my son, many of his friends and team mates spent their college training trips and came for swim meets. Several times my husband and I traveled to Fort Lauderdale before or after our sons training trip to spend time with him. I know other swimmer's families also vacationed in Fort Lauderdale to attend the meets or spend time before or after training trips. After our move my son trained with the Fort Lauderdale masters program while attending FAU and I was once again a swim parent. A little over a year ago my son talked me into starting to swim with the masters swimmers to get in shape after a lifetime with little exercise.

In the ten years Fort Lauderdale has been my permanent residence I have watched the deterioration of the facility. The colleges my son and his friends no longer send their teams here for training trips due to its condition. The swim meets they competed in are no longer held here. The financial impact of these losses are not only to the Aquatic Facility but to Fort Lauderdale businesses and subsequently to the city as reduced tax income.

My son has competed all over the world including three Paralympics and five World games. While on these trips we are invariably asked where we are from. Our Fort Lauderdale answer is generally met with a discussion of the Fort Lauderdale swimming facility. The connection of Fort Lauderdale to its aquatic center throughout the United States and the world should not be underestimated when making your decision.

As a business person involved primarily in commercial real estate I understand the importance of making well thought out choices on how to spend money and the complexities of deciding the impact of these choices.

Jeanine J. Zook
4280 Galt Ocean Dr. #7M
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

I understand a major concern from the City Commission is the cost to run the facility. It may run at a deficit however most municipal park and recreation facilities do not have the ability to generate the private industry revenue (equating to sales and other tax revenue to the city) that this facility does. The income projections for a revitalized Aquatic facility should not be based on the last several years of actual. A more accurate approach would include benefits cities consider when looking at professional sports facilities, a close look at what type of events the pool held when it was in good condition and thoughtful consideration of new uses for the facility.

A state-of-the-art Aquatic Complex separates our city from others coastal resorts. Especially an Aquatic Complex that has been used for many years by people from all over the world and has a reputation that can still be salvaged.

Swimming and dive competitions take place year round. Visitors world-wide plan "swim-cations" and therefore vacation in Fort Lauderdale solely because of the Aquatic Complex. Swimmers, triathletes, and fitness enthusiasts who target Florida for vacation choose Ft Lauderdale over other coastal resorts because of our Aquatic Complex! All of this equates to increased tax revenue. Let's not lose this desirable group of tourists to another City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanine J. Zook", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeanine J. Zook

My name is Ami Trauber, a retired American Financial Executive and an Olympic swimmer. After graduation from the University of Connecticut I retired from competitive swimming. Life took me to many locations, states, and countries. Now, Southern Florida and Toronto, Canada are my winter and summer homes, respectively. Since 1994, when I purchased my home, Fort Lauderdale continued to invest in cultural and sports facilities as well as infrastructure and the environment. These investments made the city as well as the surrounding towns a magnet for Americans and foreign visitors. **Fort Lauderdale became a destination city.** Moreover, the kids and parents returning from FTL vacations and sport camps continue praising the vast swimming facilities and cultural venues. They keep coming back in their youth and later on as grown up with their families. Where else do we have such a combination of swimming facilities, beaches, museums and cultural facilities. I **return annually!!! My children and grand children follow me.**

On the personal side, without the quality aquatic center and the related staff, I probably would not have selected Fort Lauderdale to be my destination city. More importantly, it was the Hall of Fame pool and its outstanding staff that caused me to resume my swimming routines after being a couch potato for 50 years. That in turn, at the young age of 75, improved my health and outlook on life. Now I enjoy most of what the city has to offer.

Before I formally request that you approve and promptly proceed with construction of the new swimming facility, I would like to make sure that each one of you visited our Hall of Fame pool and observed the hundreds of young boys and girls devoting their time to swimming and diving rather than watch TV, play games on their various electronic gadgets, or indulge in other counter productive activities. Also, pay attention to the hundreds of mature and retired adults benefiting from the facility and its positive impact on them and their families.

With that said, **It is time to move forward and rebuild the facility that made Fort Lauderdale famous and a destination city..**

Respectfully,

Ami Trauber

Ami Trauber


amidiver@Gmail.com



Debby Eisinger <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Fwd: Commission letter

1 message

Linda Webb <sftllinda@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 9:33 AM

To: Debby Eisinger <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: kristin volz <kduckv@hotmail.com>
Date: February 24, 2015 at 9:19:36 AM EST
To: Linda Webb <sftllinda@gmail.com>
Subject: Commission letter

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a member the the Swim Fort Lauderdale Masters team for over 8 year. I currently serve as the Booster Club's treasurer. Swimming means something different to each of the 299 on our masters team. It also means something different to each of the young swimmers and families of the age group team. Swimming and Fort Lauderdale are synonymous. The Aquatic Complex is an important part of the history of the city and it needs to have that same importance in the city's future.

I began swimming when I was 3 in North Carolina and continued to swim on a swim team when we moved to south Florida in 1980 through my high school years. As an adult I returned to swimming in 2007 joining the masters team at the Aquatic Complex. I weighed about 300 pounds and my blood pressure was out of control. In the 8 years that have followed, through swimming, my life has changed. I have lost 90 pounds and in doing so was able to fulfill a lifelong dream of running a marathon. Swimming changes lives in many positive ways. I am just one person. Swimming leads to a healthy lifestyle, keeps young people focused, gives young people a chance for college scholarships and helps older adults stay active limber.

Swimming and Fort Lauderdale are synonymous. I have traveled to many states and countries. Every time someone finds out where I swim it almost always lead to a conversation about the Aquatic Complex...stories about when they swam there as a college student on a winter training trip...stories about seeing an Olympian swim there...stories about the beautiful location of our pool...stories about their children swimming there during YMCA Nationals, or the International Classic, or a Speedo meet and many more.

The Aquatic Complex is an important part of the history of the city. As an elementary school teacher, I am always stressing the importance of knowing where you came from and where you are going. Going forward with the new Aquatic Complex is where the City of Fort Lauderdale needs to be going. The Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex has a rich history in the city. Many current and former Olympians have trained and competed in our pool. Over the years thousands of local, national and international swimmers have come through it's gates to compete or train to become

better athletes.

Swimming and the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex touches the lives of many people. I see no other option but to move forward with the plans for a new and improved aquatic facility where the current one is. This administration should look forward to knowing they played an part in recognizing and keeping of swimming a valuable part of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Most Sincerely,
Kristin Volz
SFTL Masters Booster Club Treasurer

sherif shaalan



2555 NE 11th St. #507 • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 • Phone: 954 253-5434
E-Mail: sshaalan@hotmail.com

Date: 02/23/25

City of Fort Lauderdale
City Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to express my support to advance the plans for the new aquatic facility as part of the city's Beach Redevelopment plan.

As a long time and currently active 56-year old Masters swimmer, I became a resident of Fort Lauderdale 10 years ago. A large part of my decision to relocate here was the attraction that the aquatic center held for me for most of my life.

My first introduction to the aquatic center was in 1978 as a member of a collegiate team that would travel to train at the facility over Christmas break for years. Even then, the history and tradition of the facility and its tourist destination location and climate made an indelible impression on me as a competitive swimmer. In subsequent years, I would periodically return to Fort Lauderdale as a visitor for Masters Swimming competitions. My appreciation for the facility, its storied history and the city of Ft. Lauderdale grew.

It wasn't until last year that I gained an even fuller appreciation of the history and tradition of swimming in Fort Lauderdale by researching and producing a video documentary of the life of famed swimming coach Jack Nelson, a man who spent his life dedicated to the sport of swimming and the city of Fort Lauderdale.

It is my sincere desire for the city to continue to build upon and benefit from the continuation of that tradition.

Sincerely,

Sherif Shaalan
US Masters Swimmer, Fort Lauderdale Resident.

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

February 23, 2015

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;

As the elected officials for the City of Fort Lauderdale, I am asking for your leadership to prioritize the construction of a world-class Aquatic Center. I am on the board of the Swim Fort Lauderdale Booster Club. The facility is very rundown, and becoming an eyesore. It is quickly becoming an embarrassment to our beautiful City. The pool at one time was a destination for fitness enthusiasts, swimmers and divers from all over the world. In fact we are no longer allowed to hold Swim Meets at the facility. Hosting Swim Meet is our main source of financial support for the Swim Fort Lauderdale Booster Club. We now have to look at other locations to host Swim Meets. This fact is extremely sad considering we can not have a meet at our own pool.

The days of putting a bandage on this heart attack are over. The Aquatic Center is a major investment in our economy and community.

Please build a world- class Aquatic Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly D. Tipton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'T'.

Hello Mayor Seiler , V.P. Romney, and Commissioners Trantalis, McKensie and Roberts

It was good to see you a few months ago at the Swimming Team Nationals Recognition ceremony. I was particularly proud to represent the City of Ft. Lauderdale, as were the rest of my team mates and coach.

I anxiously await the start of construction on the new Aquatic Complex. As a 46 year resident of Fort Lauderdale and an avid swimmer, I was ecstatic about the prospect of Fort Lauderdale becoming home to a state-of-the-art world class swim facility. Unquestionably, Fort Lauderdale is both a highly popular tourist destination and a great place to live. Like you, I have embraced Fort Lauderdale as an excellent place to raise a family and will likely retire here when the time

While I commend you for your dedication and commitment as Mayor or Commissioner anything less than construction of a new Aquatic Facility would be a terrible injustice to your residents and our tourist industry.

It is my understanding that the monies have been allocated for the Aquatic Complex renovation more than 12 years ago. Feasibility studies have been conducted, beginning in 2002, and several plans have been vetted. The City has recently received confirmation from all of the professional organizations who would utilize the facility for various swim and dive competitions that the plans already approved by the City are ideal for hosting world-class competitions in all categories of swimming and diving competition.

If our goal is to create a reputation as a health conscious community and attract fitness conscious individuals word-wide to vacation and /or live in our City, please do the right thing and move forward with the already approved Aquatic Facility plans without any further delay.

Should you wish to contact me to discuss your position on this issue, please feel free to call at your convenience. I can be reached at: 954 614 1613.

Sincerely,



Beda C. Dondi

February 20, 2015

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

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I'd like to share with you my feelings on why the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex is such an important asset to this city. As a native South Floridian, I've grown up with a love of everything having to do with the water. I wasn't on a swim team as a kid, but I was always in a pool, at the beach, or on a boat.

When my children were young (starting mid 1990s) the best place to bring them for swimming lessons was to the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex pool. The city's lessons were affordable and instructors were top notch. The kids always had so much fun staying after class to go off the diving boards. We, along with their swim lesson friends, would often spend the better part of the day between the pool and the beach across the street. Many years, building many fond memories, were spent this way.

I had no idea at that time what a master's swim team was.

Seven years ago, when I was pre-diabetic and significantly over weight, a friend told me she had started swimming with other adults and was having lots of fun. She suggested I check it out. I remember my first day as if it were yesterday. Coach Marty Hendrick was very welcoming. I thought I was just going to watch, but he encouraged me to get in. I swam that whole practice and have been hooked ever since.

Now, in my mid-50s, I've become a competitive swimmer. I'm healthier, happier and fitter than ever.

I'm at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex almost every day. I've seen and met people there from all around the country and world who include swimming at this famous facility into their vacation plans. Many swam there as kids. Everyone finds the deteriorating condition sad. It's beyond just repair.

Building a new world-class, first-class facility is the only way to bring back the glory of swimming in Fort Lauderdale. The local community needs one for lessons, teams, camps and fun. The facility can be rented to out-of-state clubs and groups anxious to enjoy our beautiful weather and beach. Swim and dive competitions could take place here year-round. These groups all want to be here.

Please move forward with the plans for a new Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex without any more delays.

Sincerely,

Marci Grady
(954) 914-0484

February 23, 2015

From: Clyde Akbar

2861 Somerset Drive, Unit #404

Lauderdale Lakes, Fl. 33311

cakbar119@att.net

To: Mayor and City Commissioners

100 N. Andrews Ave.

Fort Lauderdale. Fl. 33301

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

Swimming at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex has made a huge difference in my life. What began as a suggestion from my doctors in Chicago after quadruple bypass surgery is now a major part of my life style here in Florida. Also, when our granddaughters, other famiy members and friends visit my wife and me, they too enjoy the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex.

I am a Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran and a retired probaton officer from Chicago. When I moved to Fort Lauderdale five years ago, I was referred to the Aquatic Complex. I began swimming lessons three years ago and subsequently started swimming with the Masters Swim Team. Head Coach Marty Hendrick encouraged me to participate in swim meets. I have met swimmers of all ages from all over the world. It is always a pleasure seeing the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex host world class swimmers. During swim practice it is not unusual to observe tourists sightseeing at the aquatic complex.

I strongly encourage the City of Fort Lauderdale to fulfill its commitment to move forward with plans made twelve years ago to build a world class aquatic facility. *I have no doubt that the mayor and commissioners of this great city in later years will look back at this decision and know they did the right thing.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clyde Akbar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.

Clyde Akbar

February, 21, 2015

To: Fort Lauderdale Mayor and Commissioners,

RE: International Swimming Hall of Fame

I hope that you are well. I am writing this note to you for my support of the development of the new "Hall of Fame" swimming pool that is hopefully going to be built in the pool's present position.

I'd like to start by saying that I am a current and fully paid up member of Swim Fort Lauderdale Masters Swimming Team. I swim under the Head Coach talents of Marty Hendrick and his very experienced set of Masters swimming coaches. I have been swimming with Marty for about 5 years. During this time, I have a number of US Masters Nationals Swimming Championships and in the past 2 years, I am ranked in the Top Ten in the official Fina World Masters Swimming Rankings. As my life is, there is no way that I could have done this without Marty Hendrick and Swim Fort Lauderdale and of course, the internationally acclaimed Swimming Hall of Fame swimming pool.

I say "Internationally Acclaimed", as I grew up in South Africa, where I first heard of the Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale. I started swimming when I was 6 years old in Cape Town. Everybody used to speak about your pool in Ft L. I know swimmers from my youth who came to swim in Ft Lauderdale. My swimming coach even came here for coaching. Your pool is World Famous - everybody knows about it. I send your postcards around the world and people are amazed at our facilities.

Since I was a child, my dream has always been to swim in the pool in Ft Lauderdale. I never thought that I would become a part of The Swim Fort Lauderdale Masters Swimming Team. I don't know what I'd do without our pool.

Please keep OUR city's pool - the World's "International Swimming Hall of Fame" - the name says it all. What a great privilege to have our pool in our City, on our beaches.

Kind regards,
Graeme Fiser

From: Lindsay Kenney [mailto:lxnole18@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 11:12 PM

To:

Subject: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

To Whom Ever This Concerns:

I was 13 the first time I visited the Swimming Hall of Fame Pool for a swim meet. It changed my life.

I came back many times during my swim career. Being from Plano, Texas; the experience of the 'pool on the beach' could motivate any swimmer to career highs. When I was 15, I attended the U.S. National Championships, where I watched Natalie Coughlin break 1:00 in the 100 Meter Backstroke (the first woman to do so and the world record). And, not to mention the greatest race I have ever seen live: Between Micheal Phelps and Erik Vendt. They both broke the World Record that night in the 400 IM. Erik Vendt had the race won, until the very last flip-turn. Micheal Phelps, pulled away with an incredible kick-out off the wall, and won. I will never forget the sounds of the crowd and the pool deck that night. It was electric.

I was lucky to work at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex from 2009-2014. It was a dream come true. Again, a girl from Plano, Texas thanked her lucky stars and knew how blessed she was to work at such a facility as the FLAC.

The FLAC needs to be re-built and cared for. There are too many young people out there that need to be inspired the way I was, the very first time I walked onto that pool deck. The crystal blue of the water, the smell of the sea, the passing clouds. Too many greats have swum and left there mark at the FLAC to turn away.

But, don't forget about the people who just love to swim. The patrons I use to see day in and day out while working there. A woman who had suffered from skin cancer, who wore an entire body suit to shield herself from the sun, but loved to swim there. The retired Navy SEAL who would come in to get a workout and make friends with anyone he would meet. The visiting Canadians, who were told they must go see the 'pool on the beach'.

The City of Fort Lauderdale needs to honor what made them famous in the first place, water. Re-build and care for a new facility. The opportunities and community appreciation are endless. Find a way to listen to the right people that want the best for the area, the best for the swimmers, the best for the divers, the best for competition, and the best for the City of Fort Lauderdale. Be smart, and take your time. This pool is a historic landmark that will forever bring a love for Fort Lauderdale. It did for me, and I will forever be appreciative of my time in Fort Lauderdale.

Re-build the world class facility it once was. Re-build. Re-build. Re-build.

Thank you,

Lindsay Kenney



Debby Eisinger <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Fwd: Swimmer from Colombia

2 messages

Linda <sftllinda@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 10:47 AM

To: Debby Eisinger <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rosita Ventura <rventura30@gmail.com>**Date:** February 24, 2015 at 10:35:32 AM EST**To:** Linda <sftllinda@gmail.com>**Subject:** Swimmer from Colombia

Dear Mayor Seiler and Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners

This is written concerning the future of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center and all that it brings to the City of Fort Lauderdale and the National and International communities.

I am from Colombia, and started swimming when I was 11 years old and continued throughout high school and college. After college I got married and eventually became the proud mother of three wonderful boys, two of which became competitive swimmers. They swam at a club in Barranquilla (Northern Coast of Colombia) and during three consecutive years came to the Pine Crest Swim Camp during the summers and looked forward to participating at the prestigious Hall of Fame swimming events, which were famous all over the world. Other groups of Colombian children would come to the Jack Nelson Swim camp, also looking forward to participate in meets at the Hall of Fame.

Eleven years ago I became a Masters swimmer in Colombia, and 4 years ago moved to Florida where I was fortunate to discover Marty Heindrick at the Hall Of Fame, who has improved my swimming times incredibly. I became a member of USMS, and nowadays I am proud to represent SFTL in swim meets in the US and abroad.

Swimming has helped my family and me to engage in living a healthy lifestyle and enjoy all the benefits that accompany it.

Regards,

Rosa V Ventura
SFTL

Sent from my iPad

Mayordebby <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 10:50 AM

To: Linda <sftllinda@gmail.com>

I will replace her other letter

To:

Mayor Jack Seiler: jack.seiler@fortlauderdale.gov

Commissioner Romney Rogers: rrogers@fortlauderdale.gov

Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis: DTrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov

Commissioner Bruce Roberts: broberts@fortlauderdale.gov

Commissioner Robert McKinzie: RMckinzie@fortlauderdale.gov

City Manager Lee Feldman: LFeldman@fortlauderdale.gov

From:

Marianne Nestor

25 Hendricks Isle, 403

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

February 18, 2015

Re: The Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center

As a former national AAU swim competitor, a resident within walking distant from the Aquatic Center and a visionary citizen, I have a keen interest in and support of the future of the Aquatic Center.

For ease I am presenting my major points in outline format.

The Vision

The essence of Fort Lauderdale's identity, The Aquatic Center, shall become a World Class Aquatic Center known to all swimmers and divers as the ultimate, most desirable water competition and training center in the world.

Current Status

Aquatic Center is outdated, shameful, and no longer a competitive destination.

Current Budget Proposal

The five-year operating plan is based on minimal, ***status quo*** assumptions. It appears to take the status quo and tweak it forward with minimal increments. What supposition or narrative supports the budget conclusions?

A Viable Business Plan

Should consider all the ***possibilities*** for increased revenue

- a. Competition opportunities for each sport
- b. Training opportunities at all levels
- c. Teaching opportunities for all ages and needs including safety
- d. Exercise opportunities for an array of interests
- e. Spectator enhancements to showcase competition using new technology
- f. Over the top dressing rooms (especially for women)

- g. A banquet center that allows underwater viewing
- h. A marketing budget sufficient to promote a dynamic, unique world-class destination.

Recommendation:

A representative from each discipline should meet with those preparing a projected budget and walk through all the possibilities in their area of expertise, assuming the center had the necessary upgrades, enhancements and one of a kind viewing and monitoring enhancements in place.

Let the number crunchers plug the ideas into dollars.

Additional Personal Thoughts

Swimming has never been an appealing spectator sport. Ask any parent who has spent hours in the heat waiting for one race. (It surpasses any hockey moms' plight.)

So, we have an opportunity to create VIP, air conditioned spectator viewing boxes. Why not? We could even make an additional profit on food and beverage service. Some boxes could also be positioned to have a greater view of the diving competition. (To augment income boxes could be sponsored through advertising on an annual basis.) A viewing lounge could be added to this concept and generate income as well. (How many more people attend pro sports and are willing to pay more because they have VIP suites?)

We could also create a full viewing window to watch races and divers underwater. Think about an under water viewing venue that could also be an income producing banquet center. (Have you ever seen the mermaids at The Yankee Clipper?) Besides watching swimmers and divers, imagine the maneuvering skill of water polo players, which cannot be appreciated from a land view.

This complex should not be diluted with wave pools, slides etc. We have the ocean across the street to provide fun and frolicking. This facility is a major part of Fort Lauderdale's identity and should become THE World Class Aquatic Center. This is such an opportunity.

I also understand that there is a desire to increase marina space. Perhaps some slips could be included in the plan, but this land should remain primarily dedicated to its original purpose.

These are my recommendations. Our city's identity has been defined by this center and by our beaches. We cannot let this gem slip away and we have the opportunity now to create a World Class Aquatic Center.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue and for taking the time to listen to your constituents.

Sincerely,
Marianne Nestor

DOUG BUCHAN
1530 SE 12 CT
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33316
dtbuchan@aol.com
954-465-1328

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

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

I am a 35 year resident of Fort Lauderdale. The Aquatic Complex has been my second home. Few have swum the hundreds of thousands of miles that I have at our pool. I have spent hours as a volunteer coach with the youngest of children to the oldest of our masters swimmers. Our swim programs are among the finest in the country. Our coaches are the very best. For guests who come to visit Fort Lauderdale to train, even for a few days, we are SWIM HEAVEN. Rolling over on your back and looking at a beautiful blue sky, breathing that clean fresh air is so much more fun than looking up at a metal ceiling and breathing chlorine soaked air.

Everyone loves coming to our city to swim.

Mr. Mayor, I remember a morning four or five years ago when you did coffee with the coach at the pool. The event was the International Age Group Meet. Your eyes had to open wide when you saw that every lane in both long course pools was packed. That meet drew over 800 swimmers from more than 15 countries. Talk about an economic impact. It had to be significant. And, best of all this was the summer when the hoteliers have lots of empty rooms to fill. Let's stay on course and built that world class facility to revitalize our once great reputation as the place everyone wants to come swim and compete.

Regards,

Doug Buchan

Kristen Finn
3321 NE 16th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304

February 24, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Fort Lauderdale resident, a SFTL Masters swimmer and my kids used to be on the SFTL age group team. I have been swimming since I was 5 years old. I grew up in a swimming family with 2 older sisters that also swam. I have such fond memories of our family trip to Fort Lauderdale, swimming in meets at the International Hall of Fame Pool. There was no other pool like it! We stayed in the neighboring hotels, walked to the pool for our events and enjoyed the beaches. We even stayed a few days longer to enjoy the area.

I can't imagine the pool not being there. I can't believe that we will not have a place to swim. The other pools in the city of Fort Lauderdale are not at the level or capacity needed to run a swimming program. My children play sports through the City of Fort Lauderdale, mostly at Holiday Park, with the volleyball, soccer and softball that is offered. The City has done such an incredible job representing all of the sports. Are they now willing to give up swimming?

I hope that you will approve the new aquatic complex and we can keep Fort Lauderdale as one of the premier swimming destinations in the world.

Regards,

Kristen Finn



Debby Eisinger <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center

2 messages

Natalie Santos <nataliesantos29@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 9:46 AM

To: "mayordebby@gmail.com" <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Good day.

My name is Natalie Santos , a resident of Fort Lauderdale Florida and a mother of 2 wonderful swimmers of Swim Fort Lauderdale. I would like to inform your good office of the superb contribution of FLAC to my children's lives and their amazing professionalism and teaching techniques . I give them the highest recommendation. We have only been swimming in FLAC since 2012 thru their swimming lesson. They have inspired my children to enjoy swimming and continue on to the next level which was the swim team. Before FLAC I have been thru different swim school with expensive fees due to their amenities and pool but nothing like FLAC coaches and instructors . I chose to stay with them because of these wonderful coaches and instructors which half of them venture on different path by now. The Aquatic center is so much more with history itself .. It NEED a lot Of TLC. It is old and needed repair... We the parents of Swim fort Lauderdale is dreading for those 2 years we have to sacrifice driving around town for the assigned pool but with that we are looking forward for the improvement of our home pool. It is not just a recreational center it is a home for most of us specially our children. I am so proud on how they are committed to swim , their attitude towards it is beyond what money can pay for.. considering on how kids are behaving today, . Renovating the Aquatic Center will promote and encourage more youth swimmers ... You have the coaches that can make a difference and with that can create a good sports program that can change a lot of children's lives. Since the Aquatic center is famous we can held bigger swim meets that can generate more income for the state and more so pay these amazing coaches and instructors. Please in behalf of all the involved parents please renovate the Aquatic center. It's dying it needed to preserve as a part of Fort Lauderdale history and Swimming History . It needs your Tender Loving Care .

Thank you
Natalie Santos

Sent from my iPhone

Debby Eisinger <mayordebby@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 10:07 AM

To: Natalie Santos <nataliesantos29@gmail.com>

Hi Natalie,

Thank you for the letter. Very meaningful. I will include it in the packet of letters which will be delivered to the City Commission prior to Wednesday's meeting.

Debby Eisinger

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. William Penn

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of e-mail transmission.

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

February 23, 2015

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

As the elected officials for the City of Fort Lauderdale, I implore upon you to assert your leadership skills and prioritize the construction of a world-class Aquatic Complex. Band-aids cannot be a solution. Renovations and repairs will still prohibit the complex from being a host to various swim and dive events and the facility will continue to be an embarrassment to this city. The residents of **South Florida** as well as swimmers, fitness enthusiasts and divers world-wide have anticipated the construction of this world class facility for greater than 12 years.

Although the facility continues to be well utilized by the local community, swim clubs and swim teams worldwide as well as visitors who choose Fort Lauderdale as their vacation destination largely because of the availability of an aquatic facility for personal fitness, in its current condition it is an embarrassment to Fort Lauderdale. I don't think that anyone would dispute the fact that the facility is an eye-sore and has become a blemish to our otherwise stellar park and recreational facilities.

A state-of-the-art Aquatic Complex separates us from all others coastal resorts. Swimming and dive competitions take place year round. Visitors world-wide plan "swim-cations" and therefore vacation in Fort Lauderdale solely because of the Aquatic Complex. Swimmers, triathletes, and fitness enthusiasts who target Florida for vacation choose Ft Lauderdale over other coastal resorts because of our Aquatic Complex! Let's not lose this desirable group of tourists to another City.

I understand a major concern from the City Commission is the cost to run the facility. Unquestionably it will run at a deficit. It should be common knowledge that municipal park and recreation facilities are not designed to be profitable. Cities are in the business of providing the services that private industry will not as there is no money to be made. Government agencies exist for the purpose of providing public safety, fire rescue, libraries, sports and recreation facilities, safe roadways, sidewalks, water supplies, sewer services, public education, various social services, and other essential needs. Successful government services contribute to a healthy economy. Fort Lauderdale as a major world-wide tourist destination must continue to invest in its public services if it is to succeed in attracting tourists. This in turn will provide the City of Fort Lauderdale with added tax revenues and employment in the hospitality and retail sectors.

Having reviewed the Five-Year Operating Pro Forma with several other swimmers and business owners, I question the accuracy of the projections. **It is my understanding that the data is**

based on facility usage from recent years. This would result in underestimated projections regarding facility usage and economic impact to the City and surrounding businesses. Due to the blighted condition of the pools and significantly outdated facilities, the City has been restricted in the number and types of meets it could host these past several years. Also, as a result of the less than favorable condition of the facility, it is very likely that the swim programs for all ages have suffered along with the ability to rent the facility to out-of-state clubs, colleges and other groups. In today's style of operating government, public/private partnerships are proving to be successful endeavors. As an avenue for offsetting the fiscal costs of operating the facility, perhaps the City should pursue a program of granting naming rights to the entire complex and/or portions of the complex.

If it is the City's goal is to sustain and enhance its reputation as a health conscious community and attract fitness enthusiasts word-wide to vacation and /or live in the City, please do the right thing and move forward with the already approved Aquatic Facility plans without any further delay. Again, **it has been 12 years since the City made the commitment to build a world-class Aquatic Facility.**

Should you wish to contact me for further discussion prior to your meeting on February 25th, please feel free to call at your convenience. I can be reached at: 954-364-7178

Sincerely,

Dina Rubin

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

February 23, 2015

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;

I am writing to you at this time to focus your attention on the importance of building a world-class aquatic facilities in Fort Lauderdale. After residing in Fort Lauderdale for over 20 years, I moved away. After 2 years returned because I was drawn back by the beauty of the city and the lifestyle based around water that Fort Lauderdale offers. A facility of this nature will serve to enhance the reputation of the city on both a national and international level.

I have traveled to many Masters Swimming National Championships and I can hardly think of a place that is more beautiful or enjoyable to be in than Fort Lauderdale. The amount of money spent by both myself and other masters swimmers on travel (much less entire families of younger swimmers) is a significant contribution to the economy that is not to be dismissed. People would travel from all over the globe to use this facility.

It certainly seems appropriate that "The Venice of American" has a world-class aquatic facility that can serve both the community at large, promote the reputation of the city as an international destination and help local businesses thrive.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Hulett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Hulett
1335 SW 3rd Court
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Ryan B. Campbell

February 23, 2015

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

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

As a Fort Lauderdale native and resident, my family grew up swimming competitively at the City of Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex dating back to the 1950's. Some 30 plus years later, I am still swimming Masters with the Swim Fort Lauderdale program and loving the active lifestyle with my family. As Elected Officials it may seem a thankless job at times, but know your dedication and commitment to the continual beautification for residents and as an international tourist destination does not go unnoticed and we applaud your continued success.

The updating of the Aquatic Complex to its rightful place once again as the "Swimming Mecca of the World" is decades overdue. Fort Lauderdale is known as the "Venice of America, "Yachting Capital of the World" and "International Swimming Hall of Fame" in which an updated Aquatic Complex would increase revenue as in the past for the city and local businesses by attracting numerous NCAA collegiate swimming programs to train and hosting International and State Swimming and Diving Competitions.

If it is the City's goal to sustain and enhance its reputation as a health conscious community and attract fitness enthusiasts word-wide to vacation and /or live in the City, please do the right thing and move forward with the already approved Aquatic Facility plans without any further delay. Again, **it has been 12 years since the City made the commitment to build a world-class Aquatic Facility.**

Should you wish to contact me for further discussion prior to your meeting on February 25th, please feel free to call at your convenience. I can be reached at: 954-260-1435.

Thank you for your time and attention in keeping Fort Lauderdale a great place to raise my family.

Sincerely,



Ryan B. Campbell
Fort Lauderdale Native and Active Voter District IV

900 SW 10 Terrace * Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
(954) 260-1435 * campbell.ryanb@gmail.com

From the desk of:

Ryan Williams

817 SE 14th Ct.

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Sandycay1529@gmail.com

Mayor and City Commissioners

February 21, 2015

City of Ft. Lauderdale

100 N. Andrews Ave.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Mayor Dear and Commissioners;

Your job as policy makers for one of the most popular tourist destinations must be very challenging. I applaud you for your dedication and commitment to the citizens of Ft. Lauderdale.

As elected officials for this city, I implore upon you to assert your leadership skills and prioritize the construction of a world-class Aquatic Complex. Band-aids cannot be a solution. The current facility is an embarrassment to this city. I don't think anyone would dispute the fact that the current facility is an eye-sore and has become a blemish to our otherwise stellar park and recreational facilities. The residents of Ft. Lauderdale, as well as swimmers and divers worldwide have anticipated the construction of this world class facility for more than 12 years!

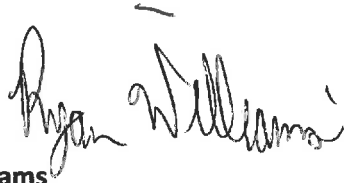
I came to Ft. Lauderdale 25 years ago when I was 15 years old to compete in YMCA Nationals at this same pool. I fell in love with the city of Ft. Lauderdale on that trip, and told myself that I would live here 1 day. Now, here I am, 25 years later, practicing and competing in the very same pool as a Swim Ft. Lauderdale Master's swimmer, and the facility is still exactly this same; rundown and in dire need of reconstruction and renovation. I am a very proud and competitive swimmer. I am currently ranked in the Top 10 in the World in four different events, and ranked in the Top 3 in the USA in six different events. I am a world class competitive swimmer, and I think it is time to build a world class aquatic complex for this world class city. I beg you! I plan on competing for Swim Ft. Lauderdale Master's swim team well into my 80's, and right now I am 41 years old.

The Aquatic Complex is not only a major investment in our economy, but also our community. And swimming is a healthy and lifelong activity. Therefore, with a new Aquatic Complex, Fort Lauderdale will be an even better place for people to come from around the world to raise a family, start a career,

and retire. If it is the City's goal to sustain and enhance its reputation as a health conscious community and attract fitness enthusiasts world-wide to vacation and/or live in the City, please do the right thing and move forward with the already approved Aquatic Facility plans without further delay. Again, it has been 12 years since the City has made the commitment to build a world-class Aquatic Facility.

Should you wish to contact me for further discussion prior to your meeting on February 25th, please feel free to call at your convenience. I can be reached on my cell at: 954-616-7565.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "R".

Ryan Williams

Proud Fort Lauderdale Resident

February 23, 2015

Clare Brophy Bellendir
704 NE 5th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

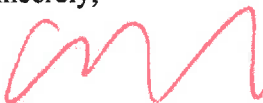
Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

I am a local Master's swimmer writing in support of rebuilding the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex. This facility is an institution in the local, national and international swimming community. Its slow but steady decline is an embarrassment to local residents and, more importantly, a direct negative "hit" to the City's tourism industry.

"Build it and they will come" is an over-used adage. In this case, however, I believe it to be applicable. A new (or, at the very least, extensively renovated facility) will attract swim competitions and training camps and increase local participation in swim programs for all ages. That being said, I ask you to reexamine the Five-Year Operating Pro Forma – facility usage from previous years simply cannot provide an accurate estimate of future revenues.

Thank you for your consideration. And please contact me directly @ clare.brophy@gmail.com with questions.

Sincerely,



Clare Brophy Bellendir