

ESTHER
Tomcykoski @ CRA

Mayor and City Commissioners

February 25, 2015

Re: Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

Dear Mayor Jack Seiler and City Commissioners,

Your job as policy makers for the largest City in Broward County and one of the most popular tourist destinations worldwide is very challenging and requires strategic planning. I applaud you for your dedication and commitment to me, my family and the rest of the citizens of the City of Fort Lauderdale, thus far.

However, 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 can no longer 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.

Over those past 12 years, I have read many concerns of the City being considered a "party" city and attracting unhealthy elements. A World-Class Aquatic Complex will consistently bring children, young-adults and masters with a positive element to this City! They will drive revenue into our airport, restaurants and hotels and most importantly, allow the City to flourish with the right element. Many, who want to return, and

possibly be fortunate enough to relocate here, will do so, as I did in 1996.

I swam at the Hall of Fame pool when I was 10 years old and as a young adult I moved here almost 20 years ago. I reside in Victoria Park and have lived in 4 homes there as my family grew. I consider the pool to be a vital part of my home, my daughter and her friends have been competitively swimming there for 3 years and I swim in the Masters' program. The current coaching staff and City of Fort Lauderdale employees that work at the pool are **all outstanding** individuals with their "hands tied" due to the current state of the Aquatic Facility.

Regardless, the facility continues to be utilized by the local community, swim clubs and swim teams, however its use is diminishing due to the facilities decrepit condition and the community and employees are the ones hurting. The Nationwide and Worldwide capabilities have greatly diminished over the past 10 years, as well.

The facility could have unlimited potential at a Local, National and Global level if you choose to move forward with the renovation plans the entire community and the employees that work there will flourish. Many people consider the Aquatic Complex to be a landmark and shame on us for letting a City landmark not get the effort behind it to allow the citizens and taxpayers bring the potential of that location to all it can be.

Kind regards,



Esther Tomcykoski