



MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 077-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: March 22, 2006

SUBJECT: Status Update of the Teen Job Corps- Relocation to Band Shell at North Shore Park

The following is a status update of the Teen Job Corps relocation issue addressing the concerns expressed recently in an email by Ms. Deborah Ruggiero.

Due to the effects from both Hurricane Katrina and Wilma, the North Shore Community Center, the main office and principal place of operations of the Teen Job Corps was severely damaged. This required the Administration to assist the organization in finding another location as the work space was unsafe and unhealthy.

After considering the available options the Administration offered Tatum Park as a site. The facility is not staffed and is a frequent target for vandalism. Use of the space would have been beneficial to each party. The Teen Job Corps indicated a desire to be closer to the 71st Street and Collins area. The City then purchased a shed and made room for the Teen Job Corps equipment storage at North Shore Park and Youth Center next to the maintenance facility and tennis center on 73rd Street.

While the Teen Job Corps was at the North Shore Youth Center, there were a number of incidents between groups of teens that had previously not occurred. In general the Teen Job Corps teens work from 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M., and during this time they are supervised. However, there are times before and after their work hours the teens frequent the park unsupervised. During unsupervised times, disruptive situations including verbal and physical altercations involving the teens from the Teen Job Corps and other teens from the neighborhood have occurred. It became apparent to the Recreation Staff at the park that this interaction was putting a strain on the smooth running of the park. The distraction caused by the additional teens, in times when they were not supervised was seen as a potential detriment to youth participating in the on-going Parks and Recreation's programming.

This concern was communicated to Mrs. Ruggiero. It was again stated that Tatum was still available as an alternative location if she was interested. Mr. Ruggiero responded she was not interested in Tatum but did say the group would prefer being relocated behind the Band Shell next to the North Shore Community Center. The Administration inspected the site and reviewed her request. After finding the site suitable and not in any way interfering with the Ocean Rescue entrance to their weight room facility, Mrs. Ruggiero was contacted on March 3rd and again on March 8, 2006, and advised that the location was approved.

With Ms. Ruggiero's agreement Parks and Recreation relocated the shed to that site on March 10th. Since the relocation there have been no further situations at the North Shore Park and Youth Center and the Teen Job Corps has operated from the Band Shell site without incident.

The North Shore Youth Center was intended to be a temporary accommodation until a long term solution was developed. As you know, the City has enjoyed a good working relationship with the Teen Job Corps, has supported the organization from its inception both organizationally and financially and has encouraged its growth and development. The City has and will continue to have a respectful relationship with the Teen Job Corps and Ms. Ruggiero.

Please advise if you have questions or comments.

JMG\RCMKS\sam

F:\cmgr\ALL\TC-08\Teen Job Corp.doc

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Smith, Parks & Recreation Director
Julio Magrisso, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

RECEIVED

06 MAR 22 PM 4: 16

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE