



ARCH CREEK TRUST

A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

1855 N. E. 135th Street
North Miami, Florida 33181

October 11, 1995

Commissioner Gwen Margolis,
13899 Biscayne Blvd.
Penthouse One
North Miami, FL.
33160

Dear Commissioner Margolis,

I am the president of Arch Creek Trust. In June, one of our members, Elmore Kerkela wrote to the Office of the County Manager because he was concerned about possible staff reduction. He received a letter from Armando Vidal assuring him that it would not happen.

This morning we received word that Arch Creek Park employee, Alan Davis, was being reassigned and that funding cuts would not permit a replacement.

I'm sure you are aware that Alice Baggett, the park naturalist provides education for school field trips. It is inconceivable that she should be expected to provide quality instructions for these groups by herself. Most groups have over 60 students.

The reassigned employee, Alan Davis, has been the hardest working employee the park has had. The park has a major problem with the exotic air potato vine. When not helping with school groups, he fills many trash bags with potatoes and vines he has removed.

The Trust members are aware that reduced funding for parks is a major problem. In Texas, sporting goods are taxed to fund their park system. A way must be found for Dade County park funding also. We would appreciate any help that you could provide for adequate staffing in Arch Creek Park.

Sincerely,

Carol Helene
President, Arch Creek
Trust
431 N.W. 146 St.
Miami, Fl. 33168



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June 12, 1995

Metropolitan Dade County
Office of the County Manager
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

Attn: Armando Vidal

Re: Parks Department Budget

Dear Mr. Vidal:

The Arch Creek Trust members would like to voice their concern about the reductions being proposed for the Parks & Recreation Department budget for next year. We implore you not to reduce their budget and, in fact, we would suggest that increases might better serve the needs of Dade County.

We are convinced that an improved parks system with more programs that target teens and pre-teens would act as a positive deterrent to crime in the fastest growing criminal segment of Dade's population. We know that such programs are expensive and labor intensive, but processing youthful offenders is even more expensive and the costs to victims cannot be measured in dollars.

We are concerned, also, about the six naturalist positions established since hurricane Andrew and would like to emphasize their importance in the continued restoration of our parks to their natural state. We believe that all six positions should be retained, and we are especially concerned that the manager of Arch Creek Park, Alice Baggett, be retained in that position. She has been very conscientious and effective in supervising the park as well as providing her services as a naturalist and assisting in the Manatee Summer Camp at Greynolds Park.

I would personally appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss these matters and to congratulate you on being named County Manager. Please call me at 821-8375 when you can fit me into your busy schedule.

Very truly yours,

Elmore Kerkela
Member, Arch Creek Trust
8000 N.W. 185 St.

Hialeah, FL 33015

MEMORANDUM

TO	Carlos Maura, Superintendent East Division	DATE	November 8, 1995
FROM	Alice Miller, Supervisor Sunny Isles District	SUBJECT	Security at Arch Creek Park

Alice Miller

On Tuesday, November 7, 1995, I met with two members of the Arch Creek Trust. Although they had other items on their agenda, the item most emphasized was the safety and security of Alice Baggett, since she is now the only employee at the Park.

The Trust has two suggestions. The first being a hand-held radio, (such as the ones the rangers used to use) that would be answered by a dispatcher and the other being the use of a Cellular phone.

In either case, each item is portable and Alice would be able to use them while out on the trail if an emergency situation were to arise.

Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

CC: Alice Baggett
Arch Creek Trust