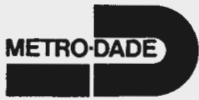


METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA



METRO-DADE CENTER

OFFICE OF COUNTY MANAGER
SUITE 2910
111 N.W. 1st STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128-1994
(305) 375-5311

Mr. Tom Gardner, Executive Director
Department of Natural Resources
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

RE: Lease Agreement 3052
Arch Creek Historical and Archeological Site
Biscayne Boulevard (State Road #5) Widening
FDOT Project No. 87030-3571

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Please be advised that Dade County is opposed to the request by the City of North Miami, that the Department of Natural Resources transfer a strip of land from its park inventory to the Florida Department of Transportation. The proposed strip of land is eleven feet wide and approximately four hundred feet along the easterly boundary of the Arch Creek Historical and Archeological Site.

Arch Creek was acquired by the Trustee of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (T.I.I.F.) in 1973, at the urging of an extensive campaign by citizen groups outraged at the idea of further degradation and aimed at saving the land.

In 1978, T.I.I.F. leased the site to Dade County for 50 years in order to preserve, develop, operate, maintain and otherwise manage the lands for outdoor recreation, park, conservation and related public purposes. Coordination is required with the Florida Department of State, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, in order to provide for the protection of archeological and historical sites. The area is identified by the State as Arch Creek Archeological Site Da23 and Dal657. Radiocarbon dates indicate the site was in use as far back as 500 B.C. and human burial has been found on the site. The area has also been designated by the Dade County Historic Preservation Board as an Archeological Zone.

Another primary concern at Arch Creek Park is the preservation and protection of the native tree hammock. An extensive comprehensive botanical plan is underway for the preservation and re-vegetation of the native trees and removal of exotic species. Several rare plant species have been found on the site.

Mr. Tom Gardner
Page Two

If we are to preserve our natural and historical areas, we cannot continue to shave off little pieces for every project that comes along. Therefore, Dade County finds this request inconceivable to consider additional decimation and degradation of this site after so many historical and environmental groups worked so long to preserve and enhance the site for all present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Joaquin G. Avino, P.E., P.L.S.
County Manager

cc: Arch Creek Trust
Park and Recreation Department
Historical Preservation
D.E.R.M.
City of North Miami