

First Church of North Miami Congregational

(UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

1200 N.E. 135th STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33161

PHONE: 891-5286

THE REVEREND CHARLES L. EASTMAN, MINISTER

March 12, 1981

Ms. Beverly Phillips
73 W. Flagler St.
Rm. 252
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Ms. Phillips,

As vice president of the newly incorporated Arch Creek Trust, I have been authorized by a unanimous vote of our general membership to write you concerning the issue of the proposed change in name of the park at Arch Creek. The Arch Creek Trust is a not for profit organization incorporated in order to preserve, protect and defend the natural flora, fauna, archeological artifacts and natural character of the Arch Creek Area, and in order to work with Metro-Dade County and other levels of government to do the same.

While the general membership is understanding of the great stresses this community has experienced since last May and while we are grieved over the slaying of yet one more of our police officers, we would like to point out that the name Arch Creek has lasted through many crises and many murders in the history of Dade County. Therefore, by unanimous vote, the general membership of the Arch Creek Trust is asking that you resist any effort to change the historical name either of the Arch Creek area or of the name of any park to be contained within that area. If the county wishes to designate a memorial to any one police officer, or to several slain police officers, we ask that it be done in some other manner than simply changing the name of a site that has been in name and in fact one of the foundation stones of the natural and the human histories of South Florida.

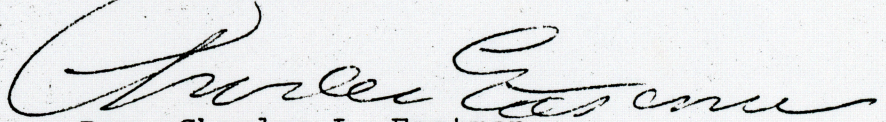
First, such a name change violates existing county policy against naming parks for specific individuals. Second, such a name change might violate the county's agreement with the state on the matter of the park at Arch Creek. Third, such a name change could possibly jeopardize the deserved designation of this area by Federal authorities as an historical area.

I personally believe that if the emotionalism of this present moment is placed in its proper perspective, it is apparent that there are available more fitting memorials to those who have lived doing community service as well as to those who have died doing community service; there are

more fitting memorials than changing or compromising the name of an historical area, the changed or compromised name of which would lessen the value of the memorial itself. Would it not be far better for the county to set aside specific funds for a separate memorial in order to really service this community's concern about its police? Why so cheaply change the long recognized name of an area that the proponents (of the name change) themselves do not care about? I simply do not understand such a contradiction, and it is my prayer that you do not understand such a contradiction either.

I firmly believe that logic, history and broad community sentiment is on the side of preserving the historical and present name of Arch Creek.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles L. Eastman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Rev. Charles L. Eastman

CLE/db