

Virginia Key Beach PARK TRUST

P.O. Box 330011, Miami, FL 33233-0011

THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

TO: Ms. Leticia Mederos, Aide to Congresswoman Carrie P Meek,
via Fax: 202-226-0777
FROM: Gene Tinnie, Vice-Chair
SUBJECT: Correspondence from National Archives, Update
DATE: March 21, 2001

Attached, as we discussed in our telephone conversation on Monday (March 19), when you called on behalf of Congresswoman Meek, is a copy of a letter we received from the Mr. John P. Butler in 1998, in response to our request for information on the "Abandoned Military Reservation" that was located on Virginia Key as indicated on a 1918 Survey Map in the Florida State Archives. While Mr. Butler notes that there does not seem to be much information at the national level on the specific questions we asked, the presence of a "three inch (thick?) file" on Virginia Key does promise to be a valuable resource, particularly as we envision the establishment of a museum at the site as part of its overall restoration and revitalization. In the absence of the available resources to either visit or copy this file, it is our hope that a copy might be obtained through the Congresswoman's office and forwarded to us in the near future.

I thank you again for your phone call on the Congresswoman's behalf and for providing an opportunity to exchange information relating to the progress of our shared interest in the restoration of Virginia Key Beach Park. As I mentioned to you at the time we spoke, your call was most timely in that I was able to communicate the latest information from the Congresswoman's office with the other members of the Trust that same evening, and with the City Manager and staff in a separate meeting yesterday (March 20).

This information included, in addition to your having been in contact with the National Archives, the Congresswoman's interest in initiating a Special Resource Study, whereby the National Park Service might also become a supportive partner in the overall Virginia Key Beach Park effort, and, more urgently, her pressing concern with the need for the Agreement between the City of Miami and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be concluded in a timely fashion in order for the important Environmental Restoration component of their work to proceed, as delays have already been incurred. We were able to share this concern with the City Manager, along with Congresswoman Meek's suggestion of a meeting of the relevant parties at her Miami office in order to address and resolve any unreadinesses that the City may have.

In a further positive development that has unfolded since we spoke, you and Congresswoman Meek will be interested to know, (as you may already have been informed), that the Miami-Dade County Commission at yesterday's meeting unanimously approved a resolution sponsored by Commissioner Barbara M. Carey-Shuler and co-sponsored by several of her colleagues, to allocate \$5 million from the County's Convention Development Tax (CDT) fund to the establishment of a museum on Virginia

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Key Beach. More discussion and negotiations will be required in order to ascertain the actual time line for this, as it is tied to the Marlin's Stadium proposal and to use of these funds by the Miami Beach Convention Center, but the enthusiastic support and understanding expressed by several Commissioners suggests that this latest action not only stands to benefit the Virginia Key effort enormously, but may well also be a welcome catalyst for ensuring the most equitable and judicious use of the CDT resources to everyone's benefit in the light of meeting more comprehensive needs.

If there is any further information you require or any ways in which we might be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 305-751-9791 or fax at 305-751-4192, or you may reach Mrs. M. Athalie Range at 305-691-4343. My e-mail address is: walitinnie@aol.com

Please communicate our warmest regards to Congresswoman Meek, and do keep up the exemplary good work. It is much more highly appreciated than we often acknowledge.

Attachment

cc; Mrs. M. Athalie Range, Chair
Mr. Carlos A. Gimenez, City Manager, City of Miami