

BRONCOS SHOULD STAY IN CORAL REEF PARK

By Vice Mayor Brian Pariser

Having knocked on over 600 doors and speaking to hundreds of Palmetto Bay voters during the recent campaign for Vice-Mayor, I never once heard any Palmetto Bay resident tell me that they wished for the Broncos youth football league and the Broncos cheerleaders to be prohibited from playing in Coral Reef Park. I also heard from the voters that they were appreciative of the wonderful new Village parks and improvements to the existing parks, and no one opposed plans for a new bathroom/concession/picnic Pavilion building which is sorely needed by the intense use of Coral Reef Park by all the sports leagues and everyday users of the park of all ages. I also have never heard one Village Council member state the Bronco football players or cheerleaders should be removed for any reason from Coral Reef Park in the Village's six years of existence.

The fact is that the old storage building owned by the Village in Coral Reef Park is in the footprint of the site plan of the new Pavilion; and coupled with the report of the Palmetto Bay Building Official listing multiple building code and permit violations the old building is a hazard and should be removed and replaced with the new Pavilion which the Village received a \$200,000.00 grant towards its construction.

I had the opportunity to talk to the Bronco leadership on December 3, 2008 at Village Hall, on the record with all the council members present, in an attempt to determine what the real concerns of the Broncos were, versus leftover front page campaign rhetoric and misinformation being promoted by outside individuals who have their own agenda to the detriment of the Broncos program and the Village. I asked the following key questions of the Bronco leadership and received the following answers:

1. Is there any requirement in the Pop Warner football league rules that requires the Bronco Football players or the Cheerleaders to have permanent storage facilities onsite or offsite of the playing field in order for the Broncos to play in the league. The answer was No.

2. Do they personally believe and/or is it the Broncos Board of Director's official position and belief that the Village is motivated to construct then new Pavilion because the Village Council does not want minority children playing in Coral Reef Park. The Answer was a resounding NO, and to a man they disavowed such a proposition.

Therefore as a result of the meeting, the only matter to be resolved is what storage space in the new Pavilion will be available to the extent that it will exist for the Broncos, as well as the other sports leagues to share, and if necessary the allowance of additional temporary onsite storage during the Bronco football and cheerleading season. I recommended to the Broncos leadership that the storage issue should be worked out now during the off season. I also advised them that as far as I am concerned the Broncos are a tradition in Coral Reef Park and must remain there, and they cannot delay any longer in advising the Village of their needs as any further delay (this has been discussed for eight months) would involve construction cost delays at the expense of the Village taxpayers. I also advised them that it is my position that if mitigation payments to the County ever end, that the per youth league maintenance fee should be reduced by the savings.

Youth sports leagues have always had an important role in my family. My daughter was a Bronco cheerleader for four years and a girls softball player, my oldest son played a year of football for the Broncos, all three of my children played T-ball, little league baseball and soccer, and my wife and I have coached numerous youth sports teams. The children's interests are paramount, and the Bronco storage issue should not be exploited for personal political vendettas.

I look forward to the next season of Bronco Football and Cheerleading and the new Pavilion in Coral Reef park for all Villagers to enjoy.

Brian W. Pariser

Vice-Mayor of the Village of Palmetto Bay