

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM:	Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager
DATE:	July 24, 2024
TITLE:	REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION TO FUND EXPANDING THE NORTH BEACH TREE PLANTING PILOT PROGRAM TO ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES LOCATED AT 78TH, 79TH, AND 80TH STREETS OR OTHER POTENTIAL LOCATIONS.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Mayor and City Commission refer this item to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the March 20, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the “PSNQLC” or “Committee”) meeting, the Administration presented an update on the tree planting pilot program in North Beach. The Committee unanimously recommended that the Public Works and Environment and Sustainability Departments collaborate on presenting a cost estimate to expand tree planting in North Beach through the use of contractors in areas currently without tree canopy. It was recommended that the update should incorporate visual aids and explore potential collaborations in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The item is sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

At the June 5, 2024 meeting, the Committee provided a favorable recommendation to fund expanding the North Beach tree planting pilot to additional parking spaces located at 78th, 79th, and 80th streets or other potential locations and requested that the item be referred to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee for a discussion on funding.

ANALYSIS

The North Beach tree-planting pilot project was approved by the Mayor and City Commission and is located on the northern side of 78 Street, between Byron and Carlyle Avenues. The pilot project included creating triangular tree pits within existing angled parking. This pilot was a new way to introduce much-needed shade without losing parking spaces and maintaining required sidewalk access. Six (6) Satin Leaf trees were planted in the triangular areas. The work was led and completed internally by the Public Works Department in coordination with the Environment and Sustainability Department.

Many lessons were learned that will be valuable for future projects. The following learnings are noted: there were some delays making sure that American Disabilities Action (ADA) space requirements were met for the sidewalk, local residents remain committed to keeping parking spaces, and old underground infrastructure may cause space and repair delays. Ultimately, adding additional greenspace and canopy introduces a broader vision that may include a careful redesign of streets such as reducing lane widths, one-way conversions, or exchanging parking spots for plantable space.

As noted during the March 2024 Committee meeting, City staff does not have the capacity to perform this volume of work in-house, which includes: 1) identifying the locations of existing underground infrastructure components; 2) demolition and excavation of pavement and limerock debris to create the tree pits; 3) forming and pouring of D-curb borders around the perimeter of tree pits to prevent planting soil and mulch from washing away and to serve as a wheel-stop to ensure that parking cars don't make contact with the trees; 4) re-striping of the parking spots; 5) supplying and installing the trees; and 5) daily tree watering to establishment. These trees may not thrive over time given the restricted planting space, but can offer some vegetative relief in an otherwise very hot area of the city and maintain the existing streetscape and parking spots.

Following direction from the Committee additional locations were identified to create triangular tree pits within existing angled parking. An estimate of \$179,200 was provided at Committee to fund forty (40) locations. Note that the estimate does not have a warranty given the restricted planting space.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

\$179,200

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on . See BIE at:
<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Given the scarcity of plantable public property in North Beach, the Administration is pleased to provide this option for short-term vegetative relief for the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee's discussion and consideration.

Applicable Area

North Beach

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

Yes

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Environment and Sustainability

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)