



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

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| 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 AND TAKE ACTION ON FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING. |

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the April 3, 2024 City Commission meeting, discussion item C4 P was referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") Committee regarding a broader vision to expand the tree canopy in North Beach. The item is sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine.

On June 10, 2024 the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") Committee provided a favorable recommendation to expand the tree canopy in North Beach to fund scope of work for a multi-disciplinary firm for two (2) main thoroughfares such as Abbott Ave or Dickens Ave and explore Park View Island with associated funding.

ANALYSIS

The referral item to increase tree canopy in North Beach introduces a broader vision for transformational change. The area has a low percentage of tree canopy cover due to the historical design of the streets, parking, and sidewalks next to dense private property. The City has plans, infrastructure projects, and the Resiliency Code that all require future development to be more resilient and sustainable that includes requirements for green infrastructure and tree canopy.

Tree canopy provides countless benefits which promote environmental health and stormwater absorption, improve quality of life, and beautify spaces. Lack of shade can lead to many negative impacts, namely the urban heat island effect impacting public health, which can greatly increase ambient temperatures, especially at night. A lack of urban canopy can also contribute to stormwater and flooding issues, lower property values, lower quality of life, lower learning capacity, and increased air pollution.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) sets forth guidelines and goals regarding reforestation and establishes best management practices to adapt the tree canopy to be resilient to urban

threats such as disease, tree abuse, and lack of space as well as climatic threats, including sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and rising temperatures. The main goal of the master plan is to grow from 17% to 22% canopy cover by the year 2040.

Given the scarcity of plantable public property and the density of private property in North Beach, street redesign may be required to achieve this broader goal. The street redesign would need to be acceptable to the community and may include reducing lane widths, one-way conversions, or exchanging parking spots for plantable space. Considering this would be transformational change, it is important to define the goals of a long-term vision and if the community would accept, for example, less parking.

The following items were discussed, and PSNQLC selected option four (4) to procure a multi-disciplinary firm:

- 1) Expand the North Beach tree planting pilot program;
- 2) Explore Buoyant City raised planter recommendations;
- 3) Select a location with defined boundaries, such as Park View Island;
- 4) Procure a multi-disciplinary firm;
- 5) Implement the North Beach Town Center/ North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project;
- 6) Implement the North Beach Town Center Central Core Zoning District community benefits for tree canopy; and
- 7) Explore additional private property landscape requirements for smaller multi-family new developments the North Beach Conservation Overlay District and other areas of North Beach.

A broader vision for tree canopy expansion in North Beach would encompass landscape architecture, roadways changes, parking, multi-mobility needs such as sidewalks, bike safety, above and below ground infrastructure, and ADA accessibility. For option four (4), procuring a multi-disciplinary firm is needed to inform the selection of geographic location(s), establish the vision of streets design acceptable to the community, plan and estimate the costs, and synthesize in the form of a recommendations report. The Office of Capital Improvement Projects is developing a high-level scope and estimate for a report in partnership with the Environment and Sustainability, Public Works, Planning, and Transportation and Mobility Departments.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

IN DEVELOPMENT

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-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

IN DEVELOPMENT

CONCLUSION

The Administration will provide a high-level scope and estimate for a multi-disciplinary recommendation report to support a broad vision for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach 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 David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine
Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt