



**COMMISSION MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

DATE: June 26, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE PROPERTY OWNERS TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YARD TRIMMINGS/LEAVES TO AVOID CLOGGING OF STORMWATER DRAINS.

**ANALYSIS**

Please place a referral on the June 26, 2024 agenda to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee ("LUSC") to discuss a possible ordinance to require property owners to dispose of yard trimmings/leaves to avoid clogging of stormwater drains.

We saw many of our neighborhoods flooded due to the unprecedented rains during the week of June 12. While at first blush it appeared that the storm water drains weren't working as planned, in many cases, it became apparent that they were working perfectly...when they weren't blocked by leaves. There were multiple reports from residents on Alton, N. Bay Dr., and throughout North Beach that once leaves were removed from the drain openings, stormwater was able to drain as planned, and flood waters receded. While some foliage will naturally drop and impact our stormwater drains during a rain event like this, the situation is greatly exacerbated by allowing residential gardeners to blow leaves, as a matter of course, off private property and into city streets and drains. It is time for this practice to end, and for us to follow best practices like the cities of Miami and Coral Gables, which require gardeners to remove and dispose of any yard trimmings/leaves as part of their service. I would like to discuss with my colleagues a possible ordinance to require property owners to properly dispose of yard clippings and leaves and/or to deposit them at one of the City's composting sites. While we cannot change the course of our weather events, we can and must do more to be prepared for them.

The City Administration and City Attorney's Office should be prepared to discuss this item at committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**Applicable Area**

Citywide

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

No

**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**

City Attorney

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

**Co-sponsor(s)**

Commissioner David Suarez