

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner David Suarez

DATE: June 26, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF RAIN GARDENS AND INCREASED NATURAL VEGETATION ALONG CITY ROADWAYS TO ENHANCE STORMWATER RUNOFF.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Please place on the June 26, 2024 agenda a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss implementation of rain gardens and increased natural vegetation along Miami Beach roadways to enhance stormwater runoff.

Recent storms and flooding have highlighted the need for continued innovated solutions to improve resilient infrastructure in Miami Beach. The City's urban areas are predominantly covered by impervious surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, and parking lots. These surfaces prevent rainwater from infiltrating the ground, unlike natural landscapes, leading to significant stormwater runoff into our storm drains. This runoff carries pollutants into our waterways, particularly Biscayne Bay, contributing to environmental damage.

I would like for the Committee to discuss the feasibility and implementation of rain gardens (see Exhibit A) and increased natural vegetation along Miami Beach roadways to enhance our stormwater management system and protect our environment.

As part of enhancing the natural vegetation along our roads, I would also like for the Committee to consider a naturalized roadway or bioswale at the I-95 and Alton Road ramp system. Currently, the I-95 interchange is mostly covered by turfgrass that is used for soil stabilization and is prone to flooding (see Exhibit B). Cultivating a natural landscape vegetation there would lower maintenance cost, create a native habitat, and capture tons of carbon dioxide and thousands of gallons of rainfall each year with newly planted trees.

ANALYSIS

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

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

N/A

CONCLUSION

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

Office of Commissioner David Suarez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)



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