



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM:	Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez
DATE:	July 24, 2024
TITLE:	REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE APPROPRIATE MECHANISM TO FUND A TRANSFORMATIVE TREE CANOPY PROJECT IN TARGETED AREAS THROUGHOUT MIAMI BEACH.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

Please place on the July 24, 2024 agenda a referral to the and the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (the "Committee") to discuss the creation the appropriate mechanism to fund a transformative tree canopy project in targeted areas throughout Miami Beach.

The North Beach tree-planting pilot approved by the Mayor and City Commission 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 Satin Leaf trees were planted in the triangular areas. The work was led and completed internally by the Public Works Department in coordination with Environment and Sustainability. However, staff has been clear that these trees have a lower probability of thriving due to the small root zone.

A transformative tree planting program for areas in the City that are severely lacking in tree canopy coverage will require an investment in underground systems to allow tree roots to survive. Trees require planting methods (sound arboricultural practices) with adequate soil volume and suspended pavement systems allow trees the opportunity to thrive over time and grow into mature canopy that will offer shade. By improperly planting trees or planting in areas not suited for these additions, our return on investment will slowly diminish until the tree ultimately dies and the City spends additional resources removing the tree. Trees planted improperly may not grow with vigor, appearing somewhat stunted for the remainder of their lives, as well as being more susceptible to pests and pathogens.

I would like the Administration to be prepared to discuss the implementation of a tree canopy program to feature hybrid tree pit/plantings with suspended pavements, including the likely costs and a reasonable timeframe for deployment. In addition, the Chief Financial Officer and other members of his staff should be prepared to make recommendations as to the appropriate mechanism to be used to fund this transformative program.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NA

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

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

Office of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: FERC - Fund Transformative Tree Canopy Project in Miami Beach. (Rosen Gonzalez)