

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: May 7, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS INSTALLATION OF WRAP-AROUND PALM TREE LIGHTING IN THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD ON MERIDIAN AVENUE BETWEEN 5TH STREET AND 2ND STREET.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends moving the item to the City Commission with a favorable recommendation to: (1) approve the installation of wrap-around palm tree lights on Meridian Avenue, between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, (2) recommend that the City Commission consider including \$170,000.00 in the FY 2026 budget cycle to cover the costs, and (3) approve a bid waiver to engage R&D Electric, Inc. to perform the work.

The Administration recommends that while FERC members evaluate adding a funding request in the FY 2026 budget cycle to cover the costs of the installation of wrap-around palm tree lights on Meridian Avenue between 5th Street and 2nd Street in the amount of \$170,000, it also carefully considers several critical factors that will significantly impact the General Fund budget, beginning in FY 2026:

1. The City's increasing unfunded capital improvement program
2. Long-term General Fund financial projections indicating a potential shortfall in upcoming fiscal years
3. The passage of Amendment 5 in November 2024, which increases the homestead exemption and further constrains the growth of taxable property values

These considerations are essential to ensure that decisions regarding the funding for wrap-around tree lights align with the City's broader long-term financial stability and strategic priorities. If FERC recommends funding the wrap-around tree lights, the Administration recommends it be considered as part of the FY 2026 budget process.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

On February 3, 2025, at the request of Commissioner David Suarez, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved item C4 AM (Attachment A), a referral to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC) to discuss the installation of wrap-around palm tree lights in the South of Fifth Neighborhood on Meridian Avenue, between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Sponsoring Commissioner Suarez, would like for Committee members to consider installing decorative, energy-efficient wrap-around lights as a way to enhance the aesthetics of the area, create a welcoming atmosphere, and contribute to the overall safety of the neighborhood by increasing visibility.

### **ANALYSIS**

Public Works staff has reached out to R&D Electric, Inc, a City authorized vendor who has been awarded a number of contracts with the City, and provided services on multiple occasions, to obtain a cost proposal (Attachment B). The estimated cost for wrap lights on palm trees on Meridian Avenue, between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is \$145,297.98 (fees include labor, material, power outlets and transformers), and \$23,280.00 (maintenance fee for the first year), for a total estimated cost of \$168,577.98, currently unfunded.

The bid waiver request would be to select this specific vendor, and approval of these services exceeding \$100,000 (above the City Manager threshold approval) without a competitive procurement process, allowing for the completion of the wrap light installation in an expedited manner. Otherwise, a regular competitive procurement process could take an estimated 4-5 months to complete.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

\$170,000.00 currently unfunded.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Administration recommends moving the item to the City Commission with a favorable recommendation to: (1) approve the installation of wrap-around palm tree lights on Meridian Avenue, between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, (2) recommend that the City Commission consider including \$170,000.00 in the FY 2026 budget cycle to cover the costs, and (3) approve a bid waiver to engage R&D Electric, Inc. to perform the work.

### **Applicable Area**

South 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

### **Department**

Public Works

### **Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner David Suarez

### **Condensed Title**

DISCUSS INSTALLATION OF WRAP-AROUND PALM TREE LIGHTING IN THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD ON MERIDIAN AVENUE BETWEEN 5TH STREET AND 2ND STREET.