

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 5th Street and 2nd 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 5th Street and 2nd 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 5th Street and 2nd 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 5th Street and 2nd 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

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