

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Alex Fernandez

DATE: November 20, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL ESTABLISHING A HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES TO RESTORE FLOOD-DAMAGED LANDSCAPING.

RECOMMENDATION

Please place the following item on the November 20, 2024, City Commission agenda a referral to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee ("LUSC") to consider a program aimed at assisting homeowners in single family homes who have invested in landscaping and vegetation to enhance the privacy, sustainability, or aesthetic value of their properties, only to experience damage or loss due to flooding caused by storms or King Tides.

Many homeowners take great pride in enhancing the aesthetics and environmental value of their properties by planting vegetation, trees, and landscaping features. However, properties within certain neighborhoods have been particularly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions such as flooding and storms, which can cause significant damage to these beautification efforts.

The proposal is for a program that would provide targeted assistance to homeowners in single family homes whose properties are located within areas designated for a Neighborhood Improvement Project or Critical Needs Project, which are aimed to address issues such as flooding through long-term resiliency improvements.

Specifically, the program would aim to:

- **Provide financial assistance or grants** to eligible homeowners for the repair or replacement of vegetation that has been damaged, provided they document the damage because of flooding.
- **Offer technical support** in selecting appropriate plants and landscaping techniques that are more resilient to future weather events, promoting sustainable and flood-resistant landscaping practices.

This program would not only help restore individual properties but also contribute to the overall beautification and resilience of the community, aligning with broader City goals for sustainability and neighborhood improvement.

Accordingly, I would request the City Administration come prepared at Committee to discuss this proposal and provide feedback on the feasibility of implementing such a program. It may be beneficial to discuss potential funding sources, administrative resources and partnerships with local organizations that can support this effort.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

n/a

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-notice/>

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 Alex Fernandez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: LUSC - Homeowner Assistance Program to Restore Flood-Damaged Landscaping.
(Fernandez)