

NB 13. DISCUSS PLANTING 100 JAMAICAN TALL COCONUT PALMS AT LUMMUS
PARK

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: June 11, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS PLANTING 100 JAMAICAN TALL COCONUT PALMS AT LUMMUS PARK

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that while the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee evaluates planting 100 Jamaican Tall Coconut Palms at Lummus Park, 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 planting 100 Jamaican Tall Coconut Palms at Lummus Park align with the City's broader long-term financial stability and strategic priorities. If the Committee recommends funding planting 100 Jamaican Tall Coconut Palms at Lummus Park, the Administration recommends it be considered as part of the FY 2026 budget process.

Administration also recommends that if the decision is to plant 100 palms at Lummus Park, the planting be done as part of the upcoming renovation project and the exact species of palm be evaluated, as Jamaican Tall Coconut Palms may not be the best choice.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

During the March 19, 2025, City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, the Mayor and City Commission referred a discussion item to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC"), requesting a discussion regarding planting 100 Jamaican Tall Coconut Palms at Lummus Park. (Exhibit A)

ANALYSIS

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

Estimated at \$350,000. \$3,500 per tree at 20 feet in overall height.

CONCLUSION

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

**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

Parks and Recreation and Environmental & Sustainability

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Plant 100 Jamaican Palms at Lummus Park (Rosen Gonzalez)

C4 H REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE –
DISCUSS PLANTING 100 JAMAICAN TALL COCONUT PALMS AT LUMMUS
PARK.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

DATE: March 19, 2025

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE –
DISCUSS PLANTING 100 JAMAICAN TALL COCONUT PALMS AT LUMMUS
PARK.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Please place on the March 19, 2025 agenda a referral to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (the “Committee”) to discuss planting 100 Jamaican tall coconut palms at Lummus Park (the “Park”). These palms, which are already a key feature of the park's landscape, are a distinctive part of Miami Beach's aesthetic and contribute to the unique tropical atmosphere enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

The Jamaican tall coconut palms are well-adapted to our local environment, and planting additional palms would enhance the park's beauty, further solidifying the Park as a landmark destination within the City.

The Administration should be prepared to present the following information to the Committee for discussion:

- appropriate planting locations within the Park;
- costs involved; and
- funding sources for the project.

To the extent funding for this project is not available in the FY 2025 budget, I would request that the Committee recommend making this a budget priority during the FY 2026 budget process. I believe this initiative will not only enhance the visual appeal of Lummus Park but also preserve the iconic look that has become synonymous with Miami Beach.

I look forward to discussing the logistics, costs, and benefits of this proposal with the Committee and gathering feedback on how we can move forward.

ANALYSIS

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?**

Yes

**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 - Plant 100 Jamaican Tall Coconut Palms at Lummus Park. (Rosen Gonzalez)

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)