

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-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?**

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)**