

C4 E REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS and TAKE ACTION ON FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM:	Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager
DATE:	July 24, 2024
TITLE:	REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON FAVORABLE PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO EXPAND THE TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH THROUGH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIRM FOR TWO (2) MAIN THOROUGHFARES SUCH AS ABBOTT AVE OR DICKENS AVE AND EXPLORE PARK VIEW ISLAND WITH ASSOCIATED FUNDING.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Mayor and City Commission refer this item to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the April 3, 2024 City Commission meeting, discussion item C4 P was referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") Committee regarding a broader vision to expand the tree canopy in North Beach. The item is sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine.

On June 10, 2024 the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") Committee provided a favorable recommendation to expand the tree canopy in North Beach to fund scope of work for a multi-disciplinary firm for two (2) main thoroughfares such as Abbott Ave or Dickens Ave and explore Park View Island with associated funding.

ANALYSIS

The referral item to increase tree canopy in North Beach introduces a broader vision for transformational change. The area has a low percentage of tree canopy cover due to the historical design of the streets, parking, and sidewalks next to dense private property. The City has plans, infrastructure projects, and the Resiliency Code that all require future development to be more resilient and sustainable that includes requirements for green infrastructure and tree canopy.

Tree canopy provides countless benefits which promote environmental health and stormwater absorption, improve quality of life, and beautify spaces. Lack of shade can lead to many negative impacts, namely the urban heat island effect impacting public health, which can greatly increase ambient temperatures, especially at night. A lack of urban canopy can also contribute to stormwater and flooding issues, lower property values, lower quality of life, lower learning capacity, and increased air pollution.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) sets forth guidelines and goals regarding reforestation and establishes best management practices to adapt the tree canopy to be resilient to urban

threats such as disease, tree abuse, and lack of space as well as climatic threats, including sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and rising temperatures. The main goal of the master plan is to grow from 17% to 22% canopy cover by the year 2040.

Given the scarcity of plantable public property and the density of private property in North Beach, street redesign may be required to achieve this broader goal. The street redesign would need to be acceptable to the community and may include reducing lane widths, one-way conversions, or exchanging parking spots for plantable space. Considering this would be transformational change, it is important to define the goals of a long-term vision and if the community would accept, for example, less parking.

The following items were discussed, and PSNQLC selected option four (4) to procure a multi-disciplinary firm:

- 1) Expand the North Beach tree planting pilot program;
- 2) Explore Buoyant City raised planter recommendations;
- 3) Select a location with defined boundaries, such as Park View Island;
- 4) Procure a multi-disciplinary firm;
- 5) Implement the North Beach Town Center/ North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project;
- 6) Implement the North Beach Town Center Central Core Zoning District community benefits for tree canopy; and
- 7) Explore additional private property landscape requirements for smaller multi-family new developments the North Beach Conservation Overlay District and other areas of North Beach.

A broader vision for tree canopy expansion in North Beach would encompass landscape architecture, roadways changes, parking, multi-mobility needs such as sidewalks, bike safety, above and below ground infrastructure, and ADA accessibility. For option four (4), procuring a multi-disciplinary firm is needed to inform the selection of geographic location(s), establish the vision of streets design acceptable to the community, plan and estimate the costs, and synthesize in the form of a recommendations report. The Office of Capital Improvement Projects is developing a high-level scope and estimate for a report in partnership with the Environment and Sustainability, Public Works, Planning, and Transportation and Mobility Departments.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

IN DEVELOPMENT

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-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

IN DEVELOPMENT

CONCLUSION

The Administration will provide a high-level scope and estimate for a multi-disciplinary recommendation report to support a broad vision for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach for the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee's discussion and consideration.

Applicable Area

North 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

Environment and Sustainability

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine
Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

18, 2020. While the Report is the culmination of nearly twelve months of study and analysis of two (2) distinct areas of the Flamingo Park and Collins Waterfront local historic districts, it was anticipated that these adaptation guidelines will be able to be applied, with some modifications, to other historic districts in the City. The consultant team, consisting of multidisciplinary professionals, studied the areas utilizing a typological approach to existing buildings, landscapes and streetscapes. In addition to developing and illustrating practical strategies that property owners can take immediately to reduce flooding risks, this comprehensive study also provides a framework for future adaptation including potential zoning incentives for long term resilience.

Of note is the concept of raised tree planters for new trees located in this planting buffer/parking zone to allow for roadways or sidewalks to be repeatedly raised in the future without disturbing mature canopy trees along the avenues and streets.

3) Select a location with defined boundaries, such as Park View Island

By selecting a targeted area, a focused multi-disciplinary effort can be taken within defined boundaries. Park View Island is very walkable, has little tree canopy, and has limited vehicle circulation and pass through traffic in comparison to other areas of North Beach. Alternative transportation patterns can be evaluated that could allow for more space for tree plantings and canopy. The area has experienced water quality concerns surrounding the island and can benefit from additional green space to retain and filter stormwater runoff.

4) Procure a multi-disciplinary firm

A broader vision for trees in North Beach would encompass landscape architecture, roadways changes, parking, multi-mobility needs such as sidewalks, bike safety, above and below ground infrastructure, and ADA accessibility. Procuring a multi-disciplinary firm is needed to inform the selection of geographic location(s), establish the vision of streets design acceptable to the community, plan and estimate the costs, and synthesize in the form of a recommendations report.

5) North Beach Town Center/ North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project

The North Beach Town Center North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project is one of three (3) holistic neighborhood climate resilience projects underway in Miami Beach. The project was awarded \$10 million from the Resilient Florida grant program and is in the preliminary design phase with procurement expected this year for full design. It includes replacements/rehab of water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, roadways with addition of new pump station with water quality treatment, creating greenspace, adding trees, mobility improvements for pedestrians and cars, and public outreach. The street trees will be planned and designed utilizing species that will grow best in Miami Beach now and in the future as salt tolerant needs increase.

6) North Beach Town Center Central Core Zoning District

On Nov 14, 2018, the City adopted the North Beach Town Center- Central Core (TC-C) zoning district, a recommendation of the North Beach Master Plan. In areas of the TC-C, the street trees are required to be larger to have more immediate shade impact and utilize structured soil systems for them to thrive in the longer term. The responsibility is with the private property developer to fund and implement these community benefits. Many projects have been approved by the Design Review Board, and in addition the buildings are required to have shade structure on the perimeter, further contributing to a more shaded environment for pedestrians. As these projects are built over time, the benefits will be realized. The street tree requirements are included in Chapter 5 of the Resilience Code.

7) Explore additional private property landscape requirements for smaller multi-family new developments the North Beach Conservation Overlay District and other areas of North Beach

As new development occurs over time, improved street tree requirements can have a positive impact on shade for the public right of way. There is an opportunity, given smaller multi-family developments anticipated, to incorporate a higher level of standards to meet the need for more canopy.

CONCLUSION:

The Administration is pleased to provide many options to support a broad vision for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach for the Committee's discussion and consideration.

Applicable Area

North Beach

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

Yes

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Strategic Connection

Environment & Infrastructure - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and heat.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Type

 [Referral Memo](#)

Memo

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner David Suarez
DATE: April 3, 2024

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY NEIGHBORHOODS AND QUALITY OF LIFE, DISCUSS
BROADER EXPANSION OF TREE CANOPY IN NORTH BEACH.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

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 name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s): N/A

ANALYSIS

Please place an item on the April 3, 2024 agenda a referral to Public Safety Neighborhoods and Quality of Life ("PSNQLC") to discuss the expansion of the tree canopy in North Beach.

Last year, Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez sponsored an initiative to plant 70 trees in 100 days in North Beach. The program was successfully completed. Despite these efforts, the issue of insufficient tree coverage in North Beach persists, exacerbated by lack of space on rights-of-way and insufficient irrigation infrastructure.

At the March 20, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the "PSNQLC") meeting, Staff presented options for expanding the tree canopy in North Beach. One proposed solution involved the development of a pilot program to plant trees in concrete planters, addressing concerns about limited space on rights-of-way and inadequate irrigation infrastructure.

The PSNQLC unanimously agreed to direct Staff to further develop this pilot program, identifying contractors and additional locations for tree planting. Staff was tasked with presenting a revised cost estimate at the June 2024 PSNQLC meeting, incorporating visual aids and exploring potential collaborations, such as Public Private Partnerships ("PPPs").

Trees produce oxygen and intercept airborne particulates, enhancing a community's respiratory health. In addition, tree canopy in urban areas reduces urban heat island effects, offering shade and promoting greater physical activity. Trees also contribute to a community's quality of life by absorbing and blocking sound and creating more visually appealing streetscapes.

Given the many beneficial effects associated with tree canopy and the positive preliminary discussions held at the Committee level, I believe it is essential to continue this conversation with all of my colleagues on the City Commission for the benefit of North Beach. While the discussions to date have been productive, I am proposing a much broader vision for the expansion of the tree canopy in North Beach, possibly to start with a project on Byron Avenue.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

Yes

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

Yes

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner David Suarez