

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Citywide Projects Committee

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 28, 2019

SUBJECT: **Discuss A Composting Program In North Beach Similar To The Program At The Miami Beach Botanical Garden.**

BACKGROUND

At the City Commission meeting on March 13, 2019, the Mayor and City Commission referred a discussion to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee (SRC) to discuss creating a composting program in North Beach similar to the program at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. This item was sponsored by Commissioner John Aleman. At the March 26, 2019 Sustainability & Resiliency Committee, staff provided an overview of different types of composting programs that the city could explore. The SRC requested that staff develop a concept plan for a pilot program to be implemented in North Beach that is similar in scale to the composting site at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. The Committee referred the discussion to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee (FCWPC). On May 29, 2019, the FCWPC discussed this item and requested that staff reach out to The North Beach Yard regarding the \$75,000 that had been allocated in the FY2018 capital budget to cost share the purchase of a mechanical composter. The Letter to Commission 326-2019 dated June 6, 2019 provides an update on the status of the North Beach Yard Project.

ANALYSIS

In April 2016, the Miami Beach Botanical Garden established its own composting program for residents. The compost program accepts approximately 10,000 lbs. of food scraps per year from members of the community. The onsite piles are positioned within a 25' x 30' area (750 square feet). Each pile is about 6' in diameter and can provide enough space for food scraps from 50-100 families per week. To adequately maintain the program and dependent on the amount of waste material, two staff members spend between 10 to 20 hours per week total adding material to the pile or processing finished material. The final compost product is either used within the garden, provided to the families that participate for their own garden use, or sold to the public for residential garden use.

At the March 20, 2019 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee, the city administration was directed to locate a potential site in North Beach to begin a pilot composting program similar to the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. After taking into consideration sizing requirements, accessibility, and current usage, staff identified the greenspace located on the east side of the parking lot in West Lot 6, just south of 85th Street, as potential location.

If the city were to implement a small-scale program comparable to the one that is established at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, an estimated \$50,000-\$75,000 would be needed to initiate the program. This includes start-up costs, labor, regular maintenance, and marketing. Oversight

and supervision are an integral component of a successful composting program; therefore, staff is needed to maintain the piles and monitor the material that is dropped off. A program of this size could service slightly over 100 households and can include some small businesses. The size requirement would be approximately 750-1000 square feet.

CONCLUSION

The following is presented to the members of the Finance and Citywide Project Committee to discuss establishing a pilot composting program managed by the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. It is recommended that the \$75,000 previously allocated for the mechanical composter associated with the North Beach Yard be unfunded and reallocated through an Operating Budget Amendment for the establishment of the manual composting program on the eastside of West Lot 6.

JLM/SMT/ESW

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