

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-31583

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO PLACE, AT THEIR OWN COST, GRASS BLOCK PAVERS IN FRONT OF THEIR PROPERTY, TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING OF CERTAIN CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS IDENTIFIED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AS HAVING A LOW ELEVATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION TO BE PERMITTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING DIVISION, IN ORDER TO ENSURE PROPER INSTALLATION AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO OBSERVE THE RESULTS.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach has many low-lying neighborhoods, built decades ago, where drainage to mitigate flooding had not yet been designed; and

WHEREAS, over past year, there have been resident reports of flooding (tidal and stormwater) in front of their properties, and as such, residents have requested the City that they be allowed to apply a specialty surface treatment on their swale, in order to mitigate flooding and mud nuisance; and

WHEREAS, swales have historically been limited to grass and trees to promote vegetation, and our current stormwater approach attempts to mimic nature's water cycle; and

WHEREAS, such approach is important because percolating water through sod encourages the replenishment of the freshwater lens; and

WHEREAS, continuing this approach, at the May 6, 2020 meeting of the Land Use and Sustainability ("LUSC"), Public Works Department presented a blue/green infrastructure (bioswale) pilot program for consideration, to be setup in front of residences at the La Gorce Neighborhood, known to flood during heavy rain; and

WHEREAS, the LUSC members agreed with the pilot program and made a motion to have Public Works proceed with the proposed bioswale, and to bring the item to the full Commission for approval; and

WHEREAS, however, following the LUSC motion, and prior to bringing the pilot program to the City Commission for approval, Public Works was advised by the residents that they did not want the City to proceed with the pilot program as it would not completely address their flooding concerns; and

WHEREAS, the City strives to provide the highest level of customer service, and is continuously working to address its residents' needs in the best possible way; and

WHEREAS, to that end, the City Administration has developed an alternate strategy to alleviate flooding in areas of concern, which would entail the installation of grass block pavers, also known as grow-through pavers; and

WHEREAS, these pavers, made of recycled plastic with open cells that allow grass to grow within them, and a porous, eco-friendly, option for driveways and parking areas, would be installed in the swale area to provide soil stabilization; and

WHEREAS, the grass block pavers provide a durable grass surface that can support heavy vehicles, maintain permeable surface areas, and at the same time eliminate or reduce stormwater runoff; and

WHEREAS, this system also provides a porous condition that allows rapid absorption and movement of stormwater and enhanced aesthetics, where the grass surface will blend with the surrounding natural surface of the swale; and

WHEREAS, residents have demonstrated interest in the grass block pavers alternative that ought to, at a minimum, stabilize soils in their swale areas; and

WHEREAS, this stabilization should reduce the nuisance of mud, even if flooding is not significantly reduced, and is expected to result in minor flooding benefits and some water quality benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends allowing residents to place grass pavers in front of their property, within the City's right-of-way, in such areas identified by Public Works as having a low elevation, to alleviate flooding; and

WHEREAS, further, it is recommended that this grass block paver pilot program be paid for by property owners who have expressed interest in participating, limiting it to those single-family homes that cannot provide more than 1-2 parking spaces within the private lot, and for such installation to be permitted by the City's Engineering Division in order to ensure proper installation, and the Administration's ability to observe the results.

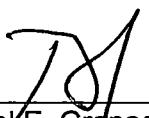
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, hereby authorize the City Administration to allow residents to place, at their own cost, grass pavers in front of their property, to alleviate flooding of certain City Right-Of-Ways identified by the Public Works Department as having a low elevation, to alleviate flooding, and authorize the installation to be permitted by the Public Works Engineering Division, in order to ensure proper installation and the Administration's ability to observe the results.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 10 day of February, 2021.



Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

 2/22/2021
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION


City Attorney

1-28-21
Date