

Committee Assignments - C4 U

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
 FROM: Commissioner Steven Meiner
 DATE: January 20, 2022

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE RECENTLY ADOPTED LANDSCAPE NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLAY FOR LA GORCE ISLAND, TO FURTHER PROTECT AND PRESERVE PALM TREES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

ANALYSIS

At the January 20, 2022 City Commission meeting, the Mayor and City Commission will consider, on second reading, a proposed Ordinance to create a Landscape Neighborhood Overlay for La Gorce Island, to provide that palm trees within La Gorce Island may count toward the minimum number of required street trees, pursuant to the City's landscaping standards, as set forth in the City's Land Development Regulations.

The City Commission is also considering a companion Ordinance, on second reading, to provide that palm trees in Landscape Neighborhood Overlays may be removed and replaced with another palm tree at the location, without requiring any additional tree mitigation under the City's Tree Removal Ordinance (either via a requirement of a mitigation payment to the City's Tree Fund or replacement of a palm tree with a canopy tree of a different species). The two Ordinances, when considered together, would operate to protect and preserve iconic and/or historic palm tree landscaping features in La Gorce Island, as they place palm trees on par with other tree species and eliminate any disincentive or additional cost to property owners who desire to maintain and preserve their iconic or historic palm tree landscaping features.

Please place on the January 20, 2022 agenda a referral to the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee, to discuss whether the protections afforded for the preservation of palm trees in La Gorce Island, either with respect to the landscaping standards in Chapter 126 of the City Code, or the tree mitigation requirements in Chapter 46 of the City Code, should be expanded Citywide, so as to protect and preserve palm tree landscaping features throughout the City.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

No

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner Steven Meiner