DocuSign Envelope ID: 5BA6ACFC-8298-4922-906C-BB14ADD2EB13

MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 332-2022

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Honorable Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Alina T. Hudak, City Manager

DocuSigned by:
Lester Sola
18D5239D10964EE...

DATE: 8/11/2022

SUBJECT: Hazard removal of Canary Island Date Palms on Lincoln Road between Washington Avenue and Drexel Avenue

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the City Commission of public safety risks and the necessary removal of failing Canary Island date palms located within the Lincoln Road Mall. Three Canary Island date palms have failed on the 400 block of Lincoln Road Mall in the past two and a half years. The palms' large crowns have fallen to the ground with little to no wind, with the most recent failure Saturday, August 6th.

When the palms were originally planted, they contained hard pseudo bark (palm bark) which keeps pests, pathogens, rain, and other harmful conditions from entering the interior areas of the trunk. The main trunks from the original installation continue to appear healthy and solid. However, this hard pseudo bark has failed to form in the palms' upward growth since installation. The areas of new growth are spongy and generally open to outside disease pressure, including larvae and fungi. The juncture between the old and new growth appears to be where the palms are failing. This factor is compounded by the fact that the upper crown continues to get heavier over time.



The cumulative failures and the potential public safety risks are concerning. On August 10th, the Urban Forestry Division conducted a field inspection to review all Canary Island date palms along the 400 block of Lincoln Road Mall. Seven remaining palms within this corridor have the same concerning risk factor that likely caused the previous crowns to fall unannounced. In light of the deteriorated tree health and the public safety concerns, the city will remove the remaining Canary Island date palms as soon as possible.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 5BA6ACFC-8298-4922-906C-BB14ADD2EB13

City staff will work toward a solution that allows for safe and successful incorporation of palms in the Lincoln Road renovation project to replace the hazardous palms. The Canary Island date palms are a predominant landscape feature of the mall entrance.

For additional information, please contact Amy Knowles, Chief Resilience Officer at mailto:aknowles@miamibeachfl.gov or Ander Alvarez, Urban Forester at mailto:aalvarez@miamibeachfl.gov.

DS DS DS

LS AK LP

LS/AK/LP/MA/AA