

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EVALUATE THE ALTON ROAD TREE CANOPY/SHADE TREES AND PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER ANY OF THE TREES SATISFY THE CRITERIA FOR HERITAGE TREE DESIGNATION IN SECTION 46-63 OF THE CITY CODE AND TO ISSUE ITS FINDINGS VIA LETTER-TO-COMMISSION WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is in the late design stages for the reconstruction of Alton Road (SR 907) from Michigan Avenue to 63rd Street, which will provide drainage improvements, modernization of our municipal water and sewer infrastructure, as well as safer facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, during the design of the project, the City of Miami Beach had requested that FDOT save all of the existing canopy trees along this roadway; and

WHEREAS, FDOT conducted an inventory of the existing trees and determined that many trees will be significantly impacted by the new roadway elevation; and

WHEREAS, FDOT staff requested direction from the City to proceed in one of two directions: 1) save all of the existing trees to the maximum extent practicable which may limit the extent of increasing the roadway elevation during the reconstruction; or 2) allow many of the existing mature trees to be removed, mindful of the fact that due to overhead power lines, replacement trees of similar type may not be allowed to be replanted in the location of where the mature large canopy trees existed; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2017, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2017-29926, recommending that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) work with the City's Urban Forester to determine which trees between Alton Road from Michigan Avenue to 63rd Street are healthy and not interfering with utilities; and to remove unhealthy or mature trees that interfere with infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2019, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2019-30988, requesting FDOT to protect and/or relocate the existing trees that do not require removal, and continue to coordinate with the City's Urban Forester for the protection of existing trees, direction of new tree relocation sites, and installation of new trees; and

WHEREAS, Miami Beach's trees are a defining and valued feature of the City, recognized for the important contribution they provide in mitigating the effects of climate change, beautifying the City's landscaping, and providing shelter to local fauna; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, the Mayor and City Commission wish to preserve as many existing, healthy shade trees and thereby direct the Administration to evaluate the Alton Road tree canopy/shade trees and provide a recommendation as to whether any of the trees satisfy the criteria for heritage tree designation in Section 46-63 of the City Code, and to issue its findings via Letter-to-Commission within 45 days of this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby direct the Administration to evaluate the Alton Road tree canopy/shade trees and provide a recommendation as to whether any of the trees satisfy the criteria for heritage tree designation in Section 46-63 of the City Code, and to issue its findings via Letter-to-Commission within 45 days of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of November 2022.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Vice-Mayor Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *RA*

11-7-22
Date