

# MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Citywide Projects Committee

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: January 19, 2018

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION REGARDING CIGARETTE BUTT RECEPTACLES IN HIGH PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC AREAS**

At the City Commission meeting on September 14, 2016, there was a referral to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee (SRC) regarding implementing cigarette butt receptacles in high pedestrian traffic areas. On October 26, 2016, the item was referred by acclamation to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee (FCWPC) for further discussion.

### **BACKGROUND**

Cigarette filters, more commonly known as cigarette butts, are one of the largest pollutants found on the sand and in our streets. Nationally an estimated 1.7 billion pounds accumulates in the natural environment on an annual basis. A common misconception is that cigarette butts are composed of materials with biodegradable qualities. In actuality, cigarette filters are comprised of cellulose acetate, a fibrous plastic that can take anywhere between 5-10 years to completely biodegrade. Discarded cigarette butts can be carried with stormwater runoff from streets to drains, to canals, and eventually to the ocean. Those that are disposed on the beach are often washed away directly into the ocean by incoming waves. These filters then become hazardous to marine organisms.

Cigarette filters are the single most collected item during beach cleanups each year. They are an environmental blight on streets, sidewalks, and other open areas. Many municipalities have banned smoking in public areas and parks for this reason. However, the State of Florida preempts local governments from regulating smoking on public property.

### **ANALYSIS**

On October 26, 2016, the SRC discussed several options to reduce cigarette butt litter by increasing the amount of ashtray receptacles in the City. Amongst these options was the Surfrider "Hold on to your butt" ashtray program. These ashcans are generally affixed above ground, at eyelevel, in high traffic areas and have the option of adding customized messaging. They have been found to provide measureable results in locations such as Huntington Beach, San Francisco, and San Francisco State University. Additionally, some locations have established partnerships with Surfrider or other non-profits to manage the maintenance of the units.

The cost for the ash can options (Table 1) range between \$67.00 - \$272.00. Furthermore, if a pilot program is established, staff will explore locations that do not conflict with the current smoke-free zones or outdoor cafes. This would help ensure that the ashcans are used effectively.

Listed below are a number of alternatives, some which have already been implemented by the city:

**TABLE 1**

Ashcan Type	Photo	Cost
<b>Surfrider</b>		\$100
<b>Alternate mounted ashcan</b>		\$67
<b>Victor Stanley Dome with Ashcan lid</b>		\$272
<b>Coca-Cola Dual Bin</b>		\$80

**Update**

This discussion was referred to the January 20, 2017, Finance and Citywide Projects Committee (FCWPC) with the direction to explore funding options such as grants or resort tax dollars that would help defray the cost for a proposed pilot program.

The committee provided direction for staff to assist the Surfrider Foundation with a matching grant application to fund the purchase of the aforementioned mountable ashcans which would include a year's worth of service from Surfrider volunteers. The volunteers will empty the ashcans, track the amount of labor spent servicing the cans, and quantify the amount of material collected. Meetings with city staff did result in a grant application being submitted but unfortunately, was not awarded to Surfrider.

Since that time, the City has installed some of the Victor Stanley ashcans with a receptacle for cigarette butts in addition to the ashtrays that had been previously installed along Lincoln Road with the Coca-Cola Bins. Just recently, the Washington Street corridor has been the recipient of the installation of BigBelly Solar trash compactors that have a cigarette butt receptacle (Attachment A). With these completed installations, Public Works will be monitoring their effectiveness in providing a place for residents and visitors to properly dispose of these items.

### **CONCLUSION**

The following is presented to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee for discussion and further direction.

Attachment A : Washington Avenue Big Belly Compactors

JLM/SMT/JJF/ESW/FCT/YP