



## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 14, 2018

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE (SRC)  
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

A meeting of the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee was held on Wednesday, January 10 2018 in the City Manager's Commission Chambers in attendance: Commissioner Micky Steinberg, Commissioner John Elizabeth Aleman, and Commissioner Mark Samuelian. Members of the administration and the public were also in attendance.

### 1. DISCUSSION ON REQUIRING SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS SIMILAR TO LEED FOR RETROFITS IN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES

#### **After-Action**

Item presented by Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager. She provided a list to the committee with potential projects of quick-win energy retrofits. Ms. Tonioli pointed out that room occupancy sensors, which are listed, will be brought to commission for discussion through the employee suggestion program. She clarified that the first table on the list is the cost for a pilot within City Hall and the second table outlines the number of sub-meters needed. She explained that the city has several accounts with FPL and in some cases, up to 3 buildings are placed under the same account and meter which makes it difficult to track where the energy is being used the most in the buildings.

Commissioner Samuelian inquired on which ones of the quick wins would address energy efficiency and cost savings. Ms. Tonioli responded that almost all of them will provide those benefits. The best options would be the installation of room occupancy sensors and window films.

Elizabeth Wheaton, Director of Environment and Sustainability, stated that understanding the data usage for each building is important component to understanding the true cost. Ms. Tonioli responded that data can be tracked at City Hall on a monthly and annual basis; other buildings may be a challenge because of the issue of multiple building being on a single sub-meter.

Suanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager added that instead of looking at items one retrofit at a time, getting a handle on the way our energy and water are being used is imperative. The utility

billing software that is currently being procured will help pin point the return on investment and collect the data that is needed. Other cities have found ghost accounts which could be eliminated to obtain a better control of utility usage.

Commissioner Aleman stated that many of the items listed are related and there's an overlap in benefits. She inquired on which one of these five components would best help to reduce use. Ms. Tonioli stated that low flow plumbing fixtures and occupancy sensors would be the good quick wins.

Commissioner Samuelian inquired on the total percent of savings with these retrofits so that the results can be used as a learning experience for retrofitting other buildings. Ms. Torriente responded that this data is not currently available but that an analyst would help with assessing and collecting it. Commissioner Steinberg added that many of the results can be viewed through utility bills without the need for a specialized analyst.

**MOTION:** Favorable recommendation to Finance and Citywide Projects to locate funding on installing ultra-low flow plumbing fixtures and occupancy sensors in city hall. This will include tracking data to use and compare within other city properties. By acclamation.

**ACTION:** Item to return to March SRC for update.

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING LIVING OR HYBRID SHORELINES CAN COMPLEMENT GREY INFRASTRUCTURE IN OUR CLIMATE ADAPTATION ON-GOING WORK

**After-Action**

Margarita Wells, Assistant Director of Environment and Sustainability presented the item. She explained that in 2017, the city designed several hybrid shorelines in areas such as Muss and Brittany Bay Park. The lessons obtained from implementing these projects and those still going through permitting will be added to the public works manual so that it becomes common practice to utilize living shorelines instead of concrete seawalls.

**ACTION:** No further action taken.

3. DISCUSSION ON STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

**After-Action**

Margarita Wells, Assistant Director of Environment and Sustainability presented the item. She explained that the Environmental Resources Management Division just completed the annual National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) report. This permit allows municipalities to operate a drainage system. This report requires staff to outline how the city is preventing pollution from entering the bay. She explained that unlike other municipalities in Miami-Dade County, Miami Beach has independent water sampling outside of the NPDES sampling program that the county conducts. The city has also increased the cleaning frequency of its pump stations from monthly to weekly. The cleaning helped remove 80,000 pounds of debris from the waterway, 2.5 million pounds of litter through street sweeping, and 17.8 million pounds of litter removed from roadways.

Ms. Wells explained that the Florida Department of Environment Protection has reassigned the permit for NPDES which now has different requirements and staff will be trained. She added the division is working on State of the Environment report. It would include info from NPDES as well as other interesting information.

Members of the public addressed the committee

**ACTION:** No further action taken.

#### 4. DISCUSSION ON ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC WARE IN BEACH CONCESSIONS

##### **After-Action**

John Ripple, Beach Maintenance Director presented the item. He provided a summary of the efforts that began in 2016 when the city was reviewing the beach regulations and how food and beverage items should be disposed of and whether moving towards reusable products is feasible.

Commissioner Samuelian inquired on whether the group of hotels that were sampled is supportive of the idea of moving towards reusable products. Steve Boucher, Boucher Brothers, suggested having a meeting with all of the hotels to understand what each property is considering. Mr. Ripple agreed with Mr. Boucher's suggestion. He explained that only 8 out of 53 commercial permit holders were sampled.

Commissioner Steinberg added that doing the right thing is not always the easiest and that hopefully the hotel partners are willing to work with the city.

Commissioner Aleman suggested that staff revisit the Beach Concessions agreement and make revisions. During the revision process, staff should meet with hotels to obtain feedback prior to presenting to commission. She added that the cost savings and quality of service is evident with this route.

**MOTION:** Favorable recommendation to the full City Commission on revising the Beach Concessions Rules and Regulations to incorporate reusable products on the condition that city staff conducts final outreach with the hotels prior to bringing the revisions to commission. Motion made by Commissioner Aleman, seconded by Commissioner Samuelian.

#### 5. REVIEW OF PLANNED AND IN PROGRESS RESILIENCY PROJECTS

##### **After-Action**

Commissioner Samuelian introduced item. He explained that this item will help with understanding the city's approach to resiliency. This is an important time to look at what has been accomplished and to also consider the advances in technologies. He added that it is important to have a team of independent experts to look at these efforts and provide feedback, utilizing the following questions as a starting point:

- How can we improve the approach to these projects related to stormwater resiliency?
- How can we best educate, engage and build confidence with the community?

He added that it is important to assess street raising and harmonization, improved water quality, and address aesthetics to maintain the Miami Beach character

Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager mentioned that representatives from 100RC were in Miami Beach to meet with the new mayors. A meeting was held to discuss the possibility of utilizing the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to host a technical assistance panel to analyze the city's approach, effectiveness, and to tackle all of the issues listed by Commissioner Samuelian. They will host an event in late March to allow for time to identify professionals. The panel is run by obtaining background information from staff, conducting site visits, and holding public meetings.

Ms. Torriente added at the end of the analysis, ULI will have an internal meeting where they share their findings and provide a report to the city. 100RC pays for the technical assistance, the city will supply them with logistical support.

Commissioner Aleman explained that the City of Miami Beach is an organization that is always learning and continuously updates its direction utilizing unbiased science. She explained staff does not make policy decisions which may hinder their ability to perform with the most up to date information and they require the support of the committee to address that. Commissioner Aleman added that she would like staff to identify policies that have been set and have them evaluated by ULI.

Members of the public addressed the committee.

**ACTION:** No further action taken.

## **6. RESILIENCY STRATEGY**

### **After-Action**

Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager presented the item. She highlighted items related to the ongoing work of the city's resiliency strategy:

- The Resiliency Team is working with partners in the county and City of Miami to host a phase II kickoff for the Resiliency Strategy on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Preliminary Assessment Report is complete and accessible on the website.
- The Resiliency Team is working on the retreat to integrate the resiliency work and tying it into the budget process.
- The Resiliency Portal will be launched by January 26.

**MOTION:** Motion for the Sustainability and Resiliency utilize a paperless agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Samuelian, Seconded by Commissioner Aleman.

## **7. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

### **After-Action**

Dave Doeblar, Committee Chairman, provided an updated. He gave an overview of the 2017 Sustainability Committee accomplishments which included:

- Banning polystyrene docks and buoys.
- Addressing derelict booms in water by requiring contractors to stencil their information on them.
- Beach litter and recycling has improved greatly through the installation of recycling receptacles with lids.
- Collaborated with Tesla for high speed supercharges. The agreement is currently being drafted.
- Working with waste haulers to create unified messaging on all recycling and trash dumpsters.
- Surfrider is working with the city to install cigarette butt ash cans.
- Continued to focus on pollution control within the stormwater system.

Commissioner Steinberg added that thanks to initiatives led by Mr. Doeblar, the Museum of Ice Cream will switch their plastic sprinkles to marine degradable and relocated the sprinkle pool to another location to minimize pollution.

**ACTION:** No further action taken.