

MIAMIBEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 21, 2018

SUBJECT: **REFERRAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF A DISCUSSION ON NON-TOXIC PRODUCTS IN MIAMI BEACH.**

At the City Commission meeting on December 13, 2017, the Mayor and City Commission referred a discussion to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee regarding the use of non-toxic products in Miami Beach. This item was sponsored by Commissioner Michael Gongora.

BACKGROUND

Over the last few years, the Mayor and City Commission have initiated a number of initiatives and programs that have been aimed at reducing the use of hazardous chemicals and products in government operations.

On September 14, 2016, the Mayor and City Commission adopted the city's Sustainable and Resilient Procurement Policy. (Attachment A- Resolution No. 2016-29555). This comprehensive policy has laid the foundation for make all city purchases more sustainable. This policy includes specifications for environmentally preferred materials and packaging for a variety of services and products provided to the city, such as janitorial services, construction materials, food catering, furniture, office supplies, multi-function devices, light poles fixtures, amongst others.

On February 8, 2017, the Mayor and City Commission adopted a policy to further institutionalize landscape best management practices. The policy requires city contractors and staff to follow the Florida Friendly Landscaping Guide when selecting plants and in landscape design when city parks and city-owned land is redeveloped. (Attachment B- Resolution No. 2017-29748).

ANALYSIS

Green procurement is one of the ten priority program areas within the City of Miami Beach Sustainability Plan. The goal of this program area is to increase the use of non-hazardous and environmentally friendly products in government maintenance, operations, permitted concessionaires/vendors and special events, as well as promote the decreased use of hazardous, toxic, and/or nonrecyclable goods community-wide.

In order to recognize its responsibility to minimize negative impacts of its purchases on human health and the environment while supporting a diverse, equitable, and vibrant community and economy, the city has to make procurement decisions that embody, promote, and encourage the city's commitment to sustainability and resiliency.

As part of the City of Miami Beach Rising Above Resiliency Strategy, the adopted Sustainable and Resilient Procurement Policy institutionalizes procurement approaches in a balanced sustainable manner, supports a more sustainable supply chain and assists the city in bouncing back from shocks and stressors in the face of climate change. By establishing this policy, the city has been able to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to combat climate change; decrease the use of hazardous materials to improve community and environmental health; and decrease waste and inefficiencies in electricity, fuel, paper, water and other consumption to relieve pressure on natural resources.

To support this policy and further create environmentally preferred specifications for the city's landscaping, the city currently follows the Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Guide for plant selection and landscaping design. Parks and Recreation Department and Greenspace Management Division and their contractors currently follow the State of Florida's Green Industries Best Management Practices for pest control management, which uses FFL and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as its foundation. IPM emphasizes proper horticultural methods to ensure the overall vitality of the landscape thus reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizer.

In their everyday operations, the Parks and Recreation Department and Greenspace Management Division follow FFL principles to conserve water, protect the environment, are appropriate for local conditions, and are drought, wind and/or salt tolerant. These practices also includes planting the right plant in the right place, efficiently watering, appropriate fertilization, mulching, attraction of wildlife, responsible management of yard pests (IPM), recycling yard waste, reduction of stormwater runoff, and waterfront protection. Additional components of FFL include planning and design, soil analysis, use of solid waste compost, practical use of turf, and proper maintenance.

CONCLUSION

The following is presented to the members of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee for discussion.

Attachments

Attachment A: City of Miami Beach Sustainable and Resilient Procurement Resolution and Policy

Attachment B: City of Miami Beach Florida-Friendly Landscaping Resolution