

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

September 4, 2018

Re: Potential creation of special assessment district to fund undergrounding of utilities on North Bay Road, between Alton Road and La Gorce Drive/Pine Tree Drive Circle

Dear Resident:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, a number of Miami Beach residents expressed a desire that the City explore the undergrounding of utilities (i.e. electric, telephone, and cable television utilities) in certain neighborhoods of the City.

On February 5, 2018, the City mailed a non-binding questionnaire to certain neighborhoods, including North Bay Road between 44th Street and 64th Street/Pine Tree Drive Circle, regarding the potential creation of special assessment districts to fund the undergrounding of utilities.

Out of the 118 questionnaires returned from properties on North Bay Road between 44th Street and 64th Street/Pine Tree Drive Circle, 89% of respondents voted in favor of undergrounding utilities. Respondents voted 81.9% in favor of funding the undergrounding of utilities partially or entirely through a special assessment on their property.

The estimated amount of the special assessment per property, based on the costs of prior underground conversion projects in Miami Beach, is approximately \$20,000. This amount could be paid all at once, or in annual installments. Notwithstanding the above, whenever overhead utilities are relocated underground, individual property owners are responsible for coordinating and paying to connect their properties to the new underground utility system.

Please be aware that the creation of any special assessment district to fund the undergrounding of utilities would be subject to the approval of at least 60% of the affected property owners in a special election. The actual cost of such special assessments would be provided to property owners prior to such election.

The City has prepared the attached petition form to allow you to advise the City whether you are in favor of funding the undergrounding of utilities on North Bay Road, between Alton Road and La Gorce Drive/Pine Tree Drive Circle, with a special assessment on your property. Please take a moment to complete the petition. Please return the petition to City staff in the attached self-addressed stamped envelope, no later than October 8, 2018. If you do not return the petition to the City, you will be considered to have answered "no."

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Jimmy L. Morales
City Manager