

MIAMI BEACH

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

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales

DATE: February 8, 2017

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, INCORPORATING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LANDSCAPING BY INCLUDING THE USE OF THE FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING GUIDE TO PLANT SELECTION AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN WHEN REDEVELOPING CITY PARKS AND CITY-OWNED LAND**

BACKGROUND

At the October 26, 2016 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee (SRC), the Committee passed a motion directing staff to work with the City Attorney's Office on drafting a resolution for approval by the City Commission directing City Departments to incorporate best practices into existing operations. This includes the use of Florida native species and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) when maintaining and redeveloping parks and City owned land.

At the January 18, 2017 SRC, the Committee referred the resolution to City Commission with a favorable recommendation to adopt the resolution.

ANALYSIS

The City of Miami Beach's Parks and Recreation Department, the Public Works Department - Greenspace Management Division, and their contractors currently use pesticides and fertilizers to maintain the landscaping in our parks, greenspaces and parking lots.

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 Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) and IPM as its foundation. IPM emphasizes proper horticultural methods that reduce the need for pesticides and fertilizers. 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.

At the request of the SRC, the Greenspace Management Division has developed in-house a resilient FFL project for City Hall that was presented to City Commission on January 11, 2017. The project was accepted by the City Commission and staff was directed to divert and identify funding. The Greenspace Management Division will be working with the Environment and Sustainability Department, UF/IFAS Extension Office, and the Miami Beach Botanical Garden to include an educational element and native plant identification. The goal of the project is to demonstrate and educate our residents, visitors and employees about how a resilient FFL can protect the environment through environmentally sustainable practices, using low-maintenance plants, conserving water and reducing fertilizers and pesticides use.

The proposed resolution provides landscaping guidelines, including the use of Florida Native Species and proper guidelines for redeveloping parks and City owned land. In addition to the proposed resolution, staff is updating landscape specifications used in the Public Works Manual and sustainable procurement specifications.

CONCLUSION

The following resolution is presented to the members of the Mayor and City Commission for discussion. Staff recommends adoption of the proposed resolution.

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

ECT/JR/RK/ESW/FCT