



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **344-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: August 22, 2016

SUBJECT: **SUNSET HARBOUR NEIGHBORHOOD / MAURICE GIBB MEMORIAL PARK**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to inform the City Commission of the on-going work in the Sunset Harbour neighborhood. As part of the parking lot reconstruction in Maurice Gibb Memorial Park, several Mahogany and Green Buttonwood trees along the west side of Purdy Avenue between the parking lot and the street are being removed. One aspect of the reconstruction will be the raising of the parking lot elevation. Due to an increase in the elevation, the trees along the west side of the parking lot need to be relocated and or removed. Unfortunately, due to the overall fair/poor condition of the trees in the area between the parking lot and the roadway, insufficient root ball sizes for relocation and poor canopy structure, only one tree will survive a relocation effort; the other trees were permitted and approved for removal.

The project obtained a tree removal permit TP15-025 on November 4th, 2015 with modification #1 PZ0616-0086 issued on June 30, 2016. When the parking lot project is complete, several more trees will have to be removed, but the overall goal is to relocate trees whenever possible within Maurice Gibb Park or within the neighborhood ROW/median areas.

Mitigation of these tree removals will include installation of six Green Buttonwood, twelve Silver Buttonwood and one Pigeon Plum trees for a total of 3,750 square feet of Florida Native replacement canopy. The remaining required replacement canopy of 5,079 sq. ft. or (17) category 1 Florida Native trees are to be planted at a later date and location within the project area to be provided within 60 days of permit issuance. Modification #1 requires planting of an additional (66) trees with a total replacement canopy of 11,750 sq. ft. within the project area.

As part of the upcoming Maurice Gibb Park renovations, a number of mature canopy trees will be most likely impacted. In effort to protect and ensure survival of the existing canopy, five Gumbo Limbo trees, three Pitch Apple, two Silver Buttonwood and one Paradise tree will be relocated from Maurice Gibb Park to the Purdy Avenue medians as part of this project.

On February 4, 2016, a Tree Preservation Program Tree Information Tag initiative was implemented in an effort to increase awareness and communication regarding upcoming and ongoing tree removal and relocation projects. The tag is required to be installed on each tree to be removed or relocated as part of the City's Tree Work Permit process by the permittee. Moving forward, any additional trees proposed for removal or relocation for the Sunset Harbour Neighborhood project will be properly tagged before removal activities occur in accordance with the issued City Tree Work Permit(s).

JLM/ETC/MP/BAM/WRB