



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# *067-2014*

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 28, 2014

SUBJECT: Citywide Dune Restoration and Enhancement Project Status Update

The purpose of this LTC is to update the Mayor and City Commission on the upcoming start date of the Citywide Dune Restoration and Enhancement Project. The project consists of the removal of non-native vegetation and replanting with native species in South Beach (Government Cut to 3 Street and 14 Street to 23 Street), Middle Beach (23 Street to 47 Street), and North Beach (64 Street to 79 Street). This work seeks to restore and enhance the dune system while improving public safety and maintenance issues. The restoration work in the Middle Beach area is partially funded through a grant received from the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

In the past, the City's dune system was not on a dedicated maintenance plan so vegetation in certain areas became overgrown and created favorable conditions for homeless encampments and illicit activities. In addition, non-native invasive vegetation grew aggressively and crowded out native species from the system. The Citywide Dune Restoration and Enhancement Project will restore the health and structural integrity of the dune system in accordance with the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) design guidelines. The healthier dune system will provide better habitat for native plants and animals, be more structurally sound, and offer the City improved storm surge protection and erosion control.

The City has retained landscape contractors Superior Landscaping and Lawn Service, Inc. and Superior Waterway through the Invitation to Bid (ITB) process to complete this work. Superior Landscaping and Lawn, Inc. will restore the South Beach dunes and Superior Waterway will restore the Middle Beach and the North Beach dunes. Both contractors anticipate starting work the week of March 3 and completing the work in September 2014. Both contractors will temporarily cease work in preparation for Memorial Day weekend on Wednesday, May 21 and will resume on Tuesday, May 27.

Once the replanting phase of this project has been completed, City staff will conduct an interdepartmental review of the restored area to identify any remaining areas of concern and to confirm the resulting conditions meet the CPTED goals. Upon completion of the project, the City's dunes will be placed under a maintenance contract, in which a landscape contractor will maintain the entire system 30 times per year.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JL
JM/JM/ETC/JF/ESW/MKW