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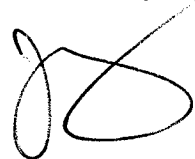


MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LTC #025-2009

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti H. Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager 

DATE: January 22, 2009

SUBJECT: Collins Park Project Update Report

The purpose of this LTC is to advise you of the recent activity and the current status of the Collins Park Project and to provide information as to the anticipated construction schedule for the park and the 21st Street parking lot.

In September 2008, the Commission approved construction of a temporary parking lot in the park just west of the rotunda. This project has been completed and approximately 117 temporary parking spaces were opened to the public on October 1, 2008. At that time, the CIP Office had anticipated all necessary construction permits would be issued on a timely basis and construction on the 21st Street parking lot East of Collins Avenue would commence after ArtBasel in mid- to late-December 2008.

As part of the routine permitting process, the project plans were submitted to Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) for review and approval. Although DERM approved the project as submitted, because a small portion of the project is east of the coastal Construction Control line (CCCL), DERM forwarded the project to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for review. The project consultant had previously received an exemption from the FDEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems since due to the specifics of the Collins Park project no coastal permitting was required. Upon receiving the project submittal from DERM, FDEP determined that the project did require a coastal permit.

Currently the project is still under FDEP review. The consultant has received comments from FDEP's Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and CIP staff is working with the consultant to resolve and/or comply with the regulatory requirements. CIP and the consultant plan to meet with FFWCC the week of January 26, 2009 and are optimistic the pending items can be resolved in a timely manner. Once FFWCC approves the plans FDEP, DERM and Miami Beach Building Department should all be able to issue their individual permits.

Once all permits are in hand the necessary revisions will be incorporated into the existing JOC contract and the contractor will be issued a NTP for Phase 1 of the project – renovation of the parking lot east of Collins Avenue. The CIP Office currently anticipates the construction period for Phase 1 to be approximately four months with construction expected to commence in late April 2009.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to let me know.


JMG/TH/FFB/JOC/RS/HKM

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