




# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 234-2009

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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TO: Mayor Matti H. Bower and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager   
DATE: September 10, 2009  
SUBJECT: Progress Report on the City's Local Mitigation Strategy Projects relative to Property Owner Discounts on Flood Insurance Premiums

## Introduction and Background

Miami-Dade County is the designated local coordinator of the Local Mitigation Strategy Program (LMS) for the Miami-Dade County area, and prepares all the municipal components of the program into a single unified Countywide Local Mitigation Strategy. The primary mitigation goal of the LMS is to reduce vulnerability to natural, technological and societal hazards from all sources, but especially in South Florida from hurricanes, tornadoes, major rainfall and other severe weather events.

The City's participation in the LMS improves its standing and classification in the Community Rating System, making flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program more affordable. The Community Rating System (CRS) is a points based system program that reduces flood insurance premiums for the citizens of participating communities. In the CRS program, flood insurance premiums are adjusted to reflect community activities that reduce flood damage to existing buildings, protect new buildings beyond the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) protection level, help insurance agents obtain flood data and help people obtain flood insurance. There are 10 CRS classes: Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the greatest premium reduction. Class 10 receives no premium reduction.

Currently the City is a Class 7 community, and as such, the City's residents have been receiving a 15% discount in their flood insurance premium (equivalent to approximately \$3.5m annually for more than 48,000 policies citywide). In order for the City to remain in class 7 at the CRS's classification program, NFIP has requested that the City of Miami Beach produce a LMS progress report on an annual basis. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) requires this report to be submitted to the City's governing body.

On June 6, 2000 the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution R-572-00 to adopt the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). Miami-Dade County has a metropolitan form of government; which means that each of the municipalities within the County has also automatically adopted the LMS.

On July 12, 2006, the City of Miami Beach adopted Resolution Number 2006-26249 adopting the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy.

## **Program Continuity and Strategy to Inform the Public**

City staff attends the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy meetings once each calendar quarter. Additionally, the latest published version of the Local Mitigation Strategy, along with meeting times, dates and locations are posted on the Miami-Dade County LMS website at: [www.miamidade.gov/oem/lms.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/oem/lms.asp)

This memorandum will be made available to the public through the media and City Clerk's Office.

The following is a progress report on the projects listed in the City's Local Mitigation Strategy:

### **Flooding:**

#### **Drainage Improvement Projects**

These projects have been specifically selected to improve the drainage system for the flood repetitive loss areas. Improvements consist of drainage improvements to mitigate street level flooding, reduce commercial property flooding concerns and improve emergency response vehicle access. These projects are will alleviate chronic neighborhood flooding situations.

**Nautilus Drainage Improvements:** Drainage improvements for the Nautilus neighborhood.

Status: The project currently under construction has a cost for storm drainage improvements of \$25.4 million. The project is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2009.

**Biscayne Point Drainage Improvements:** Construction of drainage improvements at Stillwater Drive and 85th and 86th street in Biscayne Beach.

Status: Project is approaching 90% design and construction is anticipated to commence in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2010.

**Bayshore Drainage Improvements:** Construction of drainage improvements from Lower Bay Road between 21st to 23rd Streets and also between 27th and Alton Road.

Status: Project design completed and under permitting review. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2010.

**Normandy Shores Drainage Improvements:** Drainage improvements for the entirety of Normandy Shores excluding the golf course.

Status: The project is under construction and has a cost for storm drainage improvements of \$8.3 million. The project is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2009.

**Belle Isle/Belle Isle Park Area Drainage Improvements:** Drainage improvements to the only emergency evacuation right-of-way / thoroughfare on the Island.

Status: Project construction completed and in final close-out process.

**West Avenue Drainage Improvements:** Drainage improvements are proposed for the West Avenue / Bay Road neighborhood.

Status: The Basis of Design Report was completed in 2007, and design is anticipated to commence in 2009.

**Flamingo / Lummus Drainage Improvements:** Drainage improvements are proposed for the Flamingo / Lummus neighborhood along the only east / west rights-of-ways that connect designated emergency evacuation rights-of-way in the South Beach area.

Status: Project east of Washington Avenue was completed in July 2008 (\$6.2 million). Design for the project west of Washington Avenue is anticipated to commence in 2009 with a projected construction cost of \$30.3 million.

**La Gorce Drainage Improvements:** Drainage improvements for the La Gorce Park Area bounded by 63rd Street on South, N. Bay Road, West and intercostals on East and North.

Status: Project design completed and under permitting review. Construction anticipated to commence in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2010.

**Lake Pancoast Area Drainage Improvements:** Construction of drainage improvements for West 24th Street, Lake Pancoast Drive, and West 25th Street.

Status: Project design completed and under permitting review. Construction anticipated to commence in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2010.

**Palm and Hibiscus Area Drainage Improvements:** Construction of drainage improvements for Palm and Hibiscus Islands.

Status: Project design on hold while FPL undergrounding plans are completed. Construction anticipated to commence in 2010.

**Jefferson Avenue/S. Pointe Drainage Improvements:** Construction of drainage improvements for the South Pointe area bounded by Meridian Court to the east, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the north, Jefferson Avenue to the west, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to the south.

Status: Project under construction.

**Lakeview Drainage Improvements:** Construction of drainage improvements for the Lakeview Area bounded by 51<sup>st</sup> Street to north, N. Bay Road to west, Cherokee Avenue to east and Lake View Drive to south.

Status: Project design completed and under permitting review. Construction anticipated to commence in 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2010.

**Parkview Canal Seawall Revetment:**

Status: This project will be combined with the Dickens Ave Shoreline Restoration Project in the FY09/10 Capital Plan to better coordinate its completion.

**Extensive Repairs to Seawalls:** Citywide repair of seawalls in order to mitigate the damage to the inland shoreline located throughout the City.

Status: Island View Park completed. Repair projects are underway at the following seawalls: Rue Bordeaux, Rue Versailles, Bonita Drive, Lincoln Road, Flamingo Drive, Pine Tree Drive at 63rd St, and Sunset Lake Park.

**Canal Cleaning and Shaping – Citywide:** Dredging of the approximately 12 miles of inland canals located within the City. This would directly impact the ability of the canal to hold tidal flooding and minimize flooding of surrounding properties during significant weather events.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding.

**Flood Proofing Sewer and Pump Stations:** Relining and sealing 31 pump stations and 500 manholes to prevent water intrusion which would damage pump station equipment and structures to prevent failure of stations thereby avoiding flooding.

Status: The pump station rehabilitation project is completed.

**Stormwater Outfall and Seawall Reconstruction:** Replacement of seawalls and 150 stormwater outfalls with associated relining of piping leading to outfalls as part of a comprehensive program of drainage improvement projects which will alleviate chronic neighborhood flooding situations

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

## Windstorm

**Storm Shutters and Protective Glass for City Buildings:** To provide protection during a significant weather event.

Status: The installations for Fire Stations 1 and 3 will be completed by December 2009. The installations at City Hall & Police Department are expected to be completed by April 2010.

**Streetlight System Upgrade:** When flooding occurs in low areas both residential and commercial, water intrusion occurs inside the bases of the streetlight poles and results in the malfunction of the lighting system. This project improvement will include re-wiring and placing individual fuses at each pole base and eliminate streetlight service interruptions, and damages to the street lighting infrastructure system.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

**Enhanced Emergency Response Program:** This project provides for a comprehensive preparedness program by the City including field deployment with hazard mitigation equipment and training, and equipment and training for search and rescue teams and protective clothing and equipment.

Status: Project ongoing. Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) have been completed and are being updated. Training for search and rescue team (LTRT- Light Technical Rescue Team) is ongoing.

**Citywide Dune Enhancement Project:** To enhance and restore the City's dune system to

retain sand and protect upland structures from storm surges and flooding impacts.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

### **Other Hazards**

**Miami Beach Interoperability / Communications / EOC Program:** This project includes enhancements to the City's EOC, such as a Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System, 911 Workstations, a microwave radio system and PSCU upgrade, etc.

Status: The Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System will be fully implemented in 2009 and the PSCU upgrade will began also during 2009.

**Citywide Water Infrastructure Improvements:** This project will implement the City of Miami Beach Water System Master Plan; the project includes the replacement of aging water lines (60+ years old).

Status: This project is fully programmed through neighborhood projects and other projects in the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2008/09 – 2012/13), subject to appropriation of additional programmed funding in fiscal years 2009/10 through 2013-14.

**Citywide Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements:** The City's Master Plan effort identified over 160 drainage basins in the City of Miami Beach. Approximately 34 of these basins were identified as a priority. The City has committed to improving the facilities within the 34 priority basins.

Status: This project is fully programmed through neighborhood projects and other projects in the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2008/09 – 2012/13); additional recommendations for capital projects addressing drainage improvement in the FY09/10 Proposed Capital Plan in the following areas; Washington and South Pointe, West 44th and Royal Palm, and North Bay & 56th.

**Portable Traffic Light Signals:** Ten (10) portable traffic signals for emergency situations.

Status: The City is seeking grant and alternate funding for this project.

**Citywide Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements:** The wastewater lines were built between 1926 and 1956, and the pipes are either beyond or at the end of their useful life.

Status: This project is fully programmed through neighborhood projects and other projects in the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2008/09 – 2012/13), subject to appropriation of additional programmed funding in fiscal years 2009/10 through 2013-14.

**West Avenue Bridge:** To relieve congestion on Alton Road, reduce the volume of local traffic at the busiest intersections and provide a safer venue for road users to access the causeway to Miami.

Status: Project ongoing. The feasibility study is completed.

### **Recommendations:**

1. The City will continue to participate in Miami-Dade County's LMS program and monitor the projects, as needed.
2. The City will continue to conduct an annual Hurricane and Flood Hazard Awareness Week for the residents and visitors of Miami Beach.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

JMG/KGB/AR/JMH/IAS