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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

LTC # 241-2009

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: September 16, 2009

SUBJECT: Venetian Causeway Streetscape Improvements

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to advise you of forthcoming activities associated with the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department Venetian Causeway Streetscape Improvements Project, in anticipation of any inquires from our residents. The project consists of roadway widening, drainage, sidewalk, lighting, signalization, signage and landscaping enhancements. The project limits extend from the City of Miami's Biscayne Island towards Miami Beach's Belle Isle.

All work proposed by the County will occur within the public right-of-way. The County has confirmed that no demolition of homes or acquisition of private property is contemplated for project implementation. However, the removal of encroachments, mainly landscaping/ vegetation, is contemplated in order to construct the improvements.

Proposed construction activities consist of increasing the asphalt width to accommodate east-west bike lanes, as well as sidewalks, on both sides of the Causeway. Therefore, in order to accommodate the proposed improvements, many of the existing encroachments in the public right-of-way need to be removed/relocated. Construction activities contemplate the removal of forty-seven (47) invasive and prohibited species, such as Australian Pines, Banyan Trees, Brazilian Pepper, Ficus and Seaside Mahoe. They will be replaced with approximately two-hundred eighty-five (285) species of trees (small shade/large shade/large palm materials). In addition, twenty-five (25) trees/palms will be relocated within the public right-of-way to accommodate the proposed work, but will remain relocated within the Venetian Causeway.

The County anticipates construction contract award in mid October, with a Notice to Proceed for construction in late October. They anticipate construction to begin from the west (Biscayne Island) and move eastward towards Miami Beach and be complete in approximately twelve (12) months.

As always, please feel free to call me should you have any questions or require additional information.

JMG/TH/COC

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