



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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LETTER TO COMMISSION

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: April 25, 2012

SUBJECT: America's Best of the Best Restored Beach Award Contest

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform you that as the 2011 winner of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) Best Restored Beach award, the City of Miami Beach is eligible to win the Best of the Best Restored Beaches in the Urban Beach category.

Through this contest, the ASBPA seeks to remind people that our country's favorite beaches have been restored and to highlight the importance of sound coastal management, as well as the need to maintain our coastal infrastructure to keep it healthy and wide for all users. For the last 40 years, beach restoration has been the preferred method of shore protection in coastal communities. Beach restoration is the process of placing beach-quality sand on dwindling beaches to reverse or offset the effects of erosion. The three main reasons for restoration are: storm protection – a wide sandy beach helps separate storm waves from upland structures and infrastructure; habitat restoration – numerous species rely on wide, healthy beaches as a place to live, feed and nest; and recreation – every year, there are more than 8 million visitors come and enjoy our city's beaches. The City realizes the protection and enhancement of natural resources is closely linked to preservation of its quality of life and the stability of its tourism based economy.

The initial Miami Beach restoration project was constructed from 1976 to 1981 and restored/constructed a 10.5-mile protective beach and vegetated berm extending from Government Cut through Haulover Beach Park. The initial project cost approximately \$64 million and revitalized the economy of Miami Beach and the neighboring areas. Subsequent smaller restorations have addressed severe beach erosion along the Miami-Dade County shoreline and have also had resounding economic and social impacts to the community.

The Best of the Best Restored Beaches winner will be the beach receiving the most votes in an on-line contest. The community can vote for the City of Miami Beach at: [http://www.asbpa.org/about us/about us best restored beach 2012.htm](http://www.asbpa.org/about_us/about_us_best_restored_beach_2012.htm). Individuals can place a vote once every 24 hours, through April 27, and see how your favorite beach is doing every time you visit.

If you have any suggestions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager, at elizabethwheaton@miamibeachfl.gov.

BFB/FHB/RWS/ESW