



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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LETTER TO COMMISSION 2012 APR 9 PM 4:11

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: April 9, 2012

SUBJECT: City of Miami Beach Earth Celebration Events

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform you of our 2012 Earth Day & Arbor Day events: On Saturday, April 21, 2012 the City will be hosting multiple events to celebrate the City's natural resources and educate residents on the importance of protecting our environment.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Baynanza. Baynanza is a fun-filled, six-week-long celebration for one of our most precious natural resources, Biscayne Bay, and its surroundings. While Baynanza includes approximately 35 great events throughout March and April, the event that has become nearly synonymous with this celebration is the Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day where thousands of community volunteers pitch in to clean the Bay's shorelines and islands. For this event, ECOMB and the City will be hosting a volunteer cleanup site at Maurice Gibbs Park and Flagler Memorial Island (Monument Island). Volunteers will be meeting at Purdy Avenue and 18th Street on Saturday, April 21, 8:30 AM.

In the afternoon, the City will be celebrating both Earth Day and Arbor Day at 9th Street in Lummus Park from 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM. The celebration will kick-off with the unveiling of the beach cigarette ash cans and award ceremony for the Adopt-a-Beach Program participants and the City's sustainability partners. This will be followed with a tree planting ceremony along with a reading of the City's Arbor Day proclamation. Then, the community is invited to volunteer with groups from the Adopt-a-Beach Program, the University of Miami, and Coca-Cola. Volunteers can participate in either a beach clean-up with the City and ECOMB or a dune restoration project with the City and the Surfrider Foundation. This is a great opportunity for residents to come give back to the beach and celebrate our City's most important natural resource.

The City will have an informational booth to provide residents with informational pamphlets, coloring books and certified arborists will be present to answer your tree questions. The City's green partners, including DecoBike and Car Charging will have informational booths where residents can learn more about these sustainable programs. The Sunflower Society together with Ayuda will have a booth for children to make recycled arts and crafts. City staff will also be present to answer questions and provide residents with information of City sustainable initiatives. Miami Beach residents will also be able to exchange up to two (2) water-wasting showerheads for more efficient models.

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

DRB/FHB/RWS