



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# 125-2013

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: April 12, 2013

SUBJECT: City of Miami Beach Earth Celebration Events

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The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform you of our 2013 Earth Day & Arbor Day events. Throughout the month of April, the City will be hosting multiple events to celebrate the City's natural resources and educate residents on the importance of protecting our environment.

On Wednesday, April 17, the City of Miami Beach will be celebrating Water Conservation Month at City Hall outside the Commission Chambers from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department (WASD) and, the City of Miami Beach Public Works, Environmental Resources Division will be available to answer questions and provide residents, businesses and City employees with information about how to save and protect our water resources. Miami-Dade County residents will be able to exchange up to two (2) water-wasting showerheads for water-efficient models and will be able to exchange three (3) old light bulbs for energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs.

The next event is Baynanza, which 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, the City, in partnership with ECOMB and Miami-Dade County, will be hosting volunteer cleanups at Maurice Gibbs Park and Flagler Memorial Island (Monument Island). Volunteers will be meeting at Purdy Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, April 20, 8:30 AM.

On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, the City will be celebrating both Earth Day and Arbor Day at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocean Drive (Lummas Park) from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM. The City has invited individuals and organizations to participate in a Native Flags Eco-Art Project, initiated by the Greenspace Tree Advocacy Group (GTAG) and designed by Xavier Cortada, Artist-in-Residence FIU College of Architecture + The Arts, Miami Beach Urban Studios. This project gives participants an opportunity to create a flag that depicts an eco-action they pledge to engage in to support the environment. Additionally, there will be a tree planting ceremony to commemorate Arbor Day.

At this time, the City's green partners for the April 27<sup>th</sup> event include the Coca-Cola Company, GTAG, Florida International University, the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Office, the Environmental Collation of Miami Beach (ECOMB), the Surfrider Foundation and the Sunflower Society will have informational booths and give brief presentations where residents can learn more about these sustainable programs and other environmental issues.

City staff will also be present to answer questions and provide residents with information regarding City sustainable initiatives. Additional event specific information and an invitation will be sent to you under separate cover.

Finally, on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Miami Beach Botanical Garden will be holding a lecture entitled Birds, Butterflies and Wildlife with Gil Pettigrew. The City is also partnering with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program to host a Rain Barrel Workshop at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Residents can learn about water conservation issues and the numerous ways they can save water inside and outside their homes. They can also learn how to construct and install their very own rain barrel. The workshop is free, however to purchase a rain barrel is \$40.

If you have any suggestions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Kevin Smith, Director Parks and Recreation Department, at 305-673-7730.

JLM/MASKS/JO/JEM/JF/EW/MW

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