CITY OF MIAMI BEACH0
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 298-2004

To: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

Date: November 24, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

Subject: HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

The purpose of this LTC is to give you some information on the City's holiday decoration plans as many of you have received residential inquiries recently. The City will be experiencing some decrease in the amount of holiday lights that can be displayed this season on our county roads.

The reason for the reduction in holiday lighting is the circuitry on the Miami-Dade County streetlight poles is undersized to accommodate the additional wattage from holiday lights. The County identified the potential safety hazard last holiday season and the City requested the Miami-Dade County Electrical Engineer conduct a review of the streetlight system. The review, completed in September 2004, recommended rewiring the streetlight system along the corridors listed below, and upgrading several service points to meet the wattage requirements. The cost of this upgrade is approximately $260,000 and the Administration does not believe it would be in the best interest of the City to invest in electrical upgrades of this magnitude on county facilities that provide a limited seasonal benefit. The following areas are affected:

Collins Avenue from 41st Street to 59th Street
41st Street from Alton Road to Pine Tree Drive
5th Street from Alton Road to Washington Avenue

The attached map illustrates where holiday lights will be displayed.

To ameliorate the impacts of the reduced holiday lighting on street poles, the City is now working with the Beautification Committee and Parks Department to attempt to identify additional lighting areas. There are public areas at either end of the 41st Street corridor that have electrical power access that will provide points for display, but the other areas will require more investigation to determine the feasibility. We will also investigate the use of non-lit decorations in these corridors. As this is the last year of our contract for holiday lights the Administration has already started to develop alternate concepts for the next holiday season.

Please feel free to contract me if you have any other concerns or questions.

JMG/RCM/FHB

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Fred H. Beckmann, Public Works Director
Kevin Smith, Parks and Recreation Director

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HOLIDAY DECORATION