



MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 018-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: January 25, 2007

SUBJECT: **HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

As the Commissioners, Administration and many residents observed in this recent holiday season, there were a number of problems with the proper functioning of our holiday light decorations.

The Administration is conducting a detailed analysis of the factors that may have attributed to the holiday light malfunctions. The City's holiday light contractor has been very helpful in providing detailed information on their observations and our Property Management Division has also been helpful in providing information on their technical observations in the recent holiday season.

To this point in time we have some preliminary findings that still need to be supported by product and circuit testing. We expect our information gathering analysis to be fully completed in the next several weeks.

The contributing elements to the holiday light malfunctions seemed to be largely based upon multiple factors as opposed to any one specific cause. As a general rule the lighting displays were heavily impacted by the abnormally high amount of rain fall in this time period that caused the ground fault interrupter circuits required in the light decoration installations to trip and turn off the affected light display. In some instances, power supply to the light displays was either inadequate or not in operable condition. There were a number of coordination issues relative to accessing breaker panels as well as there were incidents of homeless persons and/or vendors unplugging light displays to supply their own power needs. The one holiday light display area that uniquely seems to have been affected by a common problem was the Lummus Park and Ocean Drive holiday light installation.

In the Lummus Park holiday light display, preliminary data indicates that the most significant cause for the extensive outages was corrosion of the light bulb sockets that when in contact with the metal light poles caused short circuits in the lighting system. In this specific area our holiday light contractor has acknowledged their specific responsibility.

In discussions with the holiday light contractor, the Administration has worked to establish a plan of action to correct the problems and/or deficiencies experienced in this holiday light season. The City's holiday light contractor has been very helpful in this endeavor and is anticipating taking a number of corrective actions and replacements at their expense for subsequent holiday light displays.

The Administration has also begun discussing with our holiday light contractor how best to make some restitution to the community for the poor performance in this years holiday season. Credit to the City, as well as the contribution of additional holiday lights are being discussed at this point in time. As a practical matter, the City would be able to realize more overall value from a product or holiday light donation than in a straight credit for fees owed.

For subsequent seasons, the Administration is very comfortable that this contractor is being appropriately responsive to the City's concerns and is technically capable and competent of delivering quality future work. In the next several weeks, both the recovery plan for addressing problems, as well as the amount of and manner of restitution will be finalized with the holiday light contractor. As more information is developed and available it will be provided to the Mayor and members of the City Commission.


JMG/RCM/ /sam

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
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