



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3700

MEMORANDUM

To: Jim Scholl, City Manager

Cc: David Fernandez, Asst. City Manager – Operations
Greg Veliz, Community Services Director
Rod Delostrinos, Community Services Deputy Director
Niels Weise, Tree Commission Chair

From: Cynthia Domenech-Coogle, Urban Forestry Program Manager

Date: June 21, 2010

Subject: **Approval to increase Tree Commission budget via budget transfer of \$15,000, for landscaping Flagler Avenue.**

ACTION STATEMENT:

This resolution approves the request to utilize \$15,000.00 of Tree Commission reserve funds to purchase plant material and delivery to landscape and beautify Flagler Avenue. The total amount of funds needed to complete the landscaping of Flagler Avenue is \$17,480.90. The remainder of the funds (\$2,990) will be encumbered from the current budget.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Key West currently does not budget for landscaping. Flagler Avenue construction from White Street to Bertha Street has been completed. Due to the lack of funding to landscape this completed construction project the City of Key West Tree Commission has approved additional funding to the approved '09-'10 budget in the amount of \$15,000 for the beautification of Flagler from White Street to George Street and from Bertha Street to Duncombe Street. George Street to Bertha Street on Flagler Avenue has been landscaped with a gracious donation from the Trophia Butterfly Foundation in the amount of \$3,976.75. This particular area is completely planted. **Tree Commission funds are acquired solely from donations and fines as a result of tree mitigation.** The total cost to plant the remaining areas of Flagler Avenue is \$17,480.90, including delivery. Currently the Tree Commission balance total \$29,800. The approved FY 09-10 budget, account # 001.3701.52 allocated a total of \$4,000 for tree planting. Flagler Avenue beautification was not a consideration at budget approval. Twelve vendors submitted partial quotes, meaning requested listed plant material was not available. Attached are the most complete quotes from 3 vendors including vendor with a complete list of requested plant material. Of the thirteen vendors submitting quotes for plant material only one vendor and the least expensive quote was Native Landscape Design.



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PURPOSE & JUSTIFICATION:

Continued beautification of our city is critical to our economic and aesthetic assets not only to our citizens but to our visitors. Beautification contributes to a healthier environment, a safer community and improves oxygen production, reduces wind and noise, prevents soil erosion, improves surface drainage and filters dust.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve resolution to complete planting and beautification of Flagler Avenue from White Street to Duncombe Street, excluding George Street to Bertha Street that is completed.
2. Disapprove the resolution which would render Flagler Avenue to appear barren and unfinished.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Since Tree Commission funds are acquired solely from donations and fines as a result of tree mitigation the fiscal impact of landscaping Flagler Avenue construction corridor will cost the city only the labor to plant, establish and maintain. The funds will be exclusively from Tree Commission funds. Landscaping Flagler Avenue was not an option during budget preparation for fiscal year 2009-2010; hence, we are requesting to recognize additional Tree Commission balance from the prior year carryover in the amount of \$14,000 and to recognize an additional \$1,000 received in donations revenue this year. Funds will be transferred into 001-3701-537-52, to complete the landscaping of Flagler Avenue. The total amount of funds needed to complete the landscaping of Flagler Avenue is \$17,480.90. The remaining balance of \$2,480.90 is available in the Tree Commission budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends option #1; approve resolution to authorize a provision to amend the Tree Commission budget to complete planting and beautification of Flagler Avenue from White Street to Duncombe Street, excluding George Street to Bertha Street that is completed.