CITY OF MIAMI TREE ORDINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING 3

POTENTIAL CATEGORY 2 (PERMITTING, DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND CODE ENFORECEMENT) IDEAS FROM INPUT

This list has been drawn by the facilitators from the interviewee and participant input outlined in the *Facilitator Summary of Preprocess Interviews*, the *Compilation of Community Workshop Suggestions* and the *Interim Compilation of Online* Input. It is a partial list of substantive suggestions addressing the topics grouped as Category 2 in those documents – i.e. possible revisions to the processes used to implement tree-related ordinances and regulations, including those pertaining to permitting, development review, and code enforcement. The wording is largely that of the facilitators. Many items summarize or subsume multiple similar suggestions in the material.

While this document does not include topics from other categories in the materials, there is overlap with some of the items on the Category 1 list (Regulations) distributed before Meeting 2, since some of the suggestions on this list would require revisions to code. This list is not exhaustive. There may be other substantive suggestions and additional detail in the material.

These items will only be considered by the Committee if pulled forward for discussion by a member.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT CONSTRUCTION

- Make the preapplication process more robust with regard to tree issues. Consider requiring information about on-site trees and some form of site review for tree issues at the preapplication stage.
- Revise guidelines or department organization as needed to ensure that reviews and decisions related to tree protection, removal, relocation and mitigation:
    - happen at the beginning of development proposal review
    - are coordinated and simultaneous
    - result in final decisions
    - result in a single set of mutually consistent permit and development order conditions
- Develop more detailed guidelines for staff regarding which trees must be preserved, which ones relocated, and which may be replaced or mitigated.
- Increase monitoring during construction for all projects on sites with mature canopy.
- Require developers to submit quarterly reports, with photographs, of tree and root protection measures implemented as part of construction activity.

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- Broaden opportunities for early community input

PERMITTING TREE REMOVALS OR PRUNING OUTSIDE OF THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS

- Require additional documentation of the need to remove a tree, including pictures
- Require arborists or other professionals to provide clients with a copy of relevant city tree regulations before removing a tree.
- Enforce tree-related codes more vigorously
- Reduce obstacles to appeal of tree-removal permits, including potentially:
    - Broadening notice requirements
    - Broadening standing to appeal
    - Extending the window for appeals
    - Increasing transparency around tree removal decisions and documentation, including posting Notices of Intended Action and appeals of them online.
    - Reduce or refund cost of appeal if standing is denied, or provide information about who normally qualifies for standing before collecting the application fee

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Provide additional specialized training on tree issues to code enforcement personnel.
- Establish a dedicated tree-officer position with arborist training in code enforcement.
- Allow verified video footage of illegal pruning incidents to be used in code enforcement proceedings.

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