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Press Release**

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MIAMI ADOPTS FIRST EVER CITY WIDE PARKS MASTER PLAN

-Plan Seeks to Make Miami a Truly Cosmopolitan City-

(Miami, Fla.) – The City of Miami Commission today approved unanimously the first ever city-wide Parks and Public Spaces Master Plan. The master plan is part of the Miami 21 blue print, an ambitious planning program launched by Mayor Manny Diaz. In addition to addressing public spaces, Miami 21 also revises the city's zoning code, addresses transportation and economic development.

“This plan will create a new culture in which parks are truly valued for the ways they enhance residents’ quality of life,” said Mayor Diaz. “By taking this step, we are accepting responsibility for our public spaces and taking the necessary risks to create a 21st century parks system.”

The master plan takes into consideration the city’s entire public realm, including everything from parks and plazas, to streets, sidewalks, drainage swales, and highway edges. It approaches Miami’s parks system from multiple perspectives, including nature and environment, park and urban design, recreation, and cultural identity. The plan makes recommendations for system-wide policies to ensure that the city’s parks are well-designed and well-programmed places that celebrate diversity.

The commission’s vote concludes an extensive 18-month drafting process by the city and the planning firm Goody Clancy, which incorporated unprecedented public education and involvement. In total, 29 public meetings were held throughout the city’s neighborhoods. The public has also been able to view all plan documents and give their input through a detailed web site created solely for the master plan.

“This legislative body is now standing at a cross-roads, one that separates Miami’s bright future from the sins of omission of the past,” said Bob Flanders, member of the Parks Advisory Board and the executive boards of the Urban Environment League and the Upper Eastside’s American Legion Post 29. “Today’s action will provide lasting benefits to everyone in every age group, in every neighborhood and in every community.”

For more information on the Parks and Public Spaces Master Plan, please visit www.miamiparksplan.com or call 305-416-1341.

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