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Miami City Commission Approves Several Initiatives to Further Miami's Sustainable Future

(Miami, FL) The City of Miami Commission approved several initiatives that further Miami's sustainable future during the October 8, 2009 Commission Meeting, including initiatives creating a more bicycle-friendly city, establishing a green jobs training program, and implementing ordinances that encourage environmentally-friendly construction in the City of Miami.

"I thank the Commissioners for recognizing that we must plan for a sustainable future for the City of Miami, and this includes creating a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly city, as well as training our residents for "green" jobs and implementing environmentally-conscious construction practices," said Mayor Diaz.

The adopted initiatives are:

- **The Bicycle Master Plan**, which includes a map of over 285 miles of inter-connected bicycle routes to be implemented in the City by 2030. These bicycle routes include bicycle lanes, greenways and innovative new bicycle facilities. The Plan also introduces bicycle parking standards and calls for the implementation of bicycle parking racks, shelters or lockers at nearly 1,000 new locations throughout our city. To read the plan, visit http://miamigov.com/bicycleInitiatives/docs/Final_MBMP.pdf
- Establishing a partnership between the City of Miami, South Florida Workforce, and Miami Dade College to create a **Green Jobs Training Program**, following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's grant to help train City residents for jobs assessing, remediating and redeveloping brownfield sites.
- Several **Planning and Zoning resolutions** encouraging environmentally-friendly construction practices:
 - o Bicycle Parking Section, requiring the provision of bicycle parking facilities for new developments.
 - o Landscape Ordinance, establishing minimum landscape standards that apply to all public and private development when a permit is required. The intent of the ordinance is to enhance, improve and maintain the quality of the landscape, and to promote the use of

drought tolerant plant species and irrigation systems that conserve the use of water supplies. In addition, to promote street tree plantings, expand the City's existing tree canopy, conserve energy, and help to offset local heat island effects.

- Heat Island Effect – Roof Section, providing for environmentally responsible construction of building roofing systems designed to decrease the absorption and remittance of atmospheric heat in the City of Miami, to reduce energy consumption and bills for buildings within the City.
- Heat Island Effect - non roof, to add sections to provide for environmentally responsible methods for cooling and shading of hardscapes in City of Miami, intended to reduce the heat island effect in the City of Miami by requiring that at least 50% of the hardscape surfaces at new construction sites to (1) use reflective hardscape materials, (2) provide shading for hardscapes within 5 years, (3) use vegetative paving systems, or (4) some combination of the above.

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