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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Prepare to See Green in the North Beach Neighborhood**

— *Miami Beach Receives Neat Streets Miami Grant for Dozens of Canopy Trees* —

**Miami Beach, FL** – In an effort to expand Miami-Dade County’s tree canopy by leveraging local resources, Neat Streets Miami awarded the City of Miami Beach a Street Tree Matching grant for \$7,500 for the North Beach Reforestation Project. This project includes installation of 43 new canopy trees in the North Beach neighborhood along Marseille Drive and Calais Drive on Normandy Isle.

“As a result of tropical storms, hurricanes and harsh weather conditions during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, the city lost significant amounts of trees directly impacting the existing tree canopy coverage,” explained the City of Miami Beach Urban Forester Mark Williams. “The loss of tree cover has created a negative ecological and aesthetic impact to our community, and this grant will allow the city to leverage existing funds to increase the tree canopy in the Normandy Isle neighborhood.”

Neat Streets Miami is a multi-jurisdictional county board dedicated to the maintenance and beautification of transportation corridors, gateways and connections. They launched the Street Tree program this year to help advance the Million Trees Miami initiative, a community-wide effort to plant one million trees and achieve a 30 percent tree canopy cover by 2020 in Miami-Dade County.

“We know that by working with our partners and leveraging resources, planting one million trees by 2020 becomes a much more achievable goal,” said Neat Streets Miami Chairman and Miami-Dade Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, District 9. “Cities awarded funds this first year from our program should be very proud of their efforts to green their communities – they are providing cooler, more inviting environments with these investments.”

To improve and enhance Miami Beach’s urban forest, the city’s Urban Forestry Division is actively pursuing and implementing a robust reforestation plan, including final completion of the citywide tree inventory and formulation of a City Street Tree Management Master Plan.

The Neat Streets Miami Grant award is a positive step towards contributing to Miami Beach’s overall goal to increase canopy coverage. The city’s intent is to increase the citywide tree canopy coverage in line with the reforestation efforts being championed by the Million Trees Miami campaign.

“Miami Beach is grateful to the Neat Streets Miami board for partnering with us on this important project,” added Williams.

For more information on Neat Streets Miami, visit [www.neatstreetsmiami.com](http://www.neatstreetsmiami.com)

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