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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Miami Beach Receives \$15,000 Grant for Tree Inventory Study** — From the Florida Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program —

**Miami Beach, FL** – The City of Miami Beach has successfully completed Phase 5A of a tree inventory study, which was supported by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and funded by the Florida Urban Community Forestry Grant Program. Funding was made available to organizations and municipalities for the purpose of enhancing urban and community forestry programs. A \$15,000 grant was matched by a \$15,000 contribution of city funds. A precise count of 5,305 trees on public property and their condition were determined.

As a result of past tropical storms, hurricanes, harsh weather conditions, flooding events and issues related to sea level rise, the city has lost significant amounts of trees directly impacting the existing tree canopy coverage. The loss of tree cover has created a negative ecological and aesthetic impact to the community. In an effort to better understand the urban canopy, Miami Beach hired E-Sciences, Inc. to continue with the overall tree inventory project.

“Phase 5A evaluated 5,305 trees in the city’s right-of-way and park areas” said Miami Beach Urban Forester Mark Williams. “This evaluation demonstrates that while many of the trees in Miami Beach are in good condition, there are opportunities for the addition of canopy trees throughout the city.”

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 Master Plan. The Million Trees Miami Campaign has a goal of planting 1,000,000 trees or the equivalent of 30 percent

countywide tree canopy coverage by 2020.

“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,” added Williams. “We are grateful to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for partnering on this important project.

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