

# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 043-2022

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Alina T. Hudak, City Manager 

DATE: February 1, 2022

**SUBJECT: Miami Beach is Awarded \$18.6 Million in Grants through the Resilient Florida Grant Program**

I am pleased to report that the City has been awarded three grants totaling over \$18.6 million for environmental resilience projects through the Resilient Florida Grant Program. The projects will help prepare coastal and inland communities for the adverse impacts of flooding and storm surge and will enhance our City's efforts to protect our community from storm damage.

The Resilient Florida Grant Program was created to help prepare communities for the impacts of sea level rise and flooding.

### **North Beach Town Center**

*Total award amount: \$10,000,000*

North Beach Town Center is a priority flood mitigation project in the heart of a newly designated Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). This grant award will provide design funds to mitigate flooding caused by intense rain events, high tides and sea level rise. The project includes elevating roads to reduce current and future flooding, a new storm water treatment system and pump station, a new stormwater gravity collection system and storm water outfall. The project also includes the replacement of existing water and sewer mains along the corridor. Within the CRA, infrastructure investment and flood protection are critical for the planned economic growth. This project will take the existing commercial hub of North Beach and create the flood mitigation and water and sewer infrastructure to transform it into a resilient, town center that is vibrant and dynamic.

### **Citywide Gravity Sewer Mains Replacement**

*Total award amount: \$7,625,000*

Sea level rise creates higher ground water which negatively impacts critical sewer infrastructure. This high priority project identified in the City's Sewer Master Plan, reduces infiltration in the gravity sewer system, creating a more reliable sewer collection service. It adapts the system to withstand the rising groundwater table and protects the system from sea level rise by replacing aging sewer mains in areas where rehabilitation is not feasible.

This project consists of the replacement of aging gravity sewer systems that have reached the end of their useful life and are vulnerable to increased infiltrations due to higher groundwater elevations because of sea level rise. This project also includes the replacement of approximately 26,000 linear feet of gravity sewer mains throughout the City. These mains were identified as the highest risk of failure in the City's Sewer Master Plan and the most vulnerable to rising sea level and ground water.

### **Dune Enhancement**

*Total award amount: \$1,001,000*

A healthy dune system provides significant nature-based protection from storms, climate change, and sea-level rise. This project proposes strategic restoration of the dune system, targeting vulnerable areas to increase resilience, provide storm surge protection to upland properties, resist sea level rise damage, and reduce beach erosion. This project is essential to continue to foster this critical habitat that provides vital storm surge protection to the City.

Resilience planning to protect our community has been essential to position our projects for funding, including the Comprehensive Plan, the North Beach Master Plan, North Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, and the Sewer Master Plan. Strategies for Blue Green Infrastructure, Neighborhood Prioritization, Road Elevation and the Dune Management Plan demonstrate the City's commitment to holistic resilience.

The grant funds are in the current, Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 budget and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection anticipates that the City will receive grant agreements later this year.

This funding is in addition to the \$28 million that the City was previously selected to receive, subject to legislative approval, for Fire Station #1 and First Street through the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan program.

I would like to thank the Mayor and City Commission for your leadership. I would also like to thank the Grants and Intergovernmental Division, along with the Resilience Office, Public Works, Economic Development and Environmental and Sustainability Departments for their devoted and successful work on these grants.

ATH/MM/JH