

# CITY OF CORAL GABLES

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

## REPORT TO CORAL GABLES COMMISSION

### *Consideration of Citywide Undergrounding of Utilities*

Summary of Community Engagement Plan

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

# Presentation Outline

- **Project Lead Group**
- **City Commission action to date**
- **Goals of Community Engagement Plan**
- **Other Important Community Engagement Issues**
- **Communications Channels and Stakeholders**
- **Community and Neighborhood Meetings**
- **Critical Path/Timeline for Community Engagement Plan**
- **Other Dates for Overall Project**
- **Project Reports**
- **Questions and answers (Q&A)**

# Project Lead Group

- **City Manager**
- **City Attorney**
- **Assistant City Manager for Operations**
- **Deputy City Attorney**
- **Public Works Director**
- **Finance Director**
- **Information Technology Director**
- **Kivvit – Eugene Ramirez**
- **Stantec – Ramon Castella**
- **Hamptons Group – Jeffrey Bartel**

# City Commission action to date

- May 20, 2019: City Commission workshop to discuss consideration of Citywide undergrounding of utilities
- May 28, 2019: City Commission directs City Attorney and City Manager to (1) obtain nonbinding ballpark estimates from the utilities (FPL, AT&T, and Comcast) and (2) report back to the City Commission in fall 2019 (*Resolution 2019-132*)
- November 12, 2019:
  - Report presented to City Commission regarding nonbinding ballpark estimates.
  - City Commission directs City Attorney and City Manager to conduct (1) preliminary analysis and preparation, (2) community engagement, (3) project scoping, and (4) to schedule one or more workshops on or before early April (*Resolution 2019-346*)
  - **City Commission requests a report at its December 10, 2019 Commission meeting on summary of community engagement plan**

# Goals of Community Engagement Plan

- Provide candid, objective information (including pros and cons) about effects of undergrounding of utilities regarding reliability, safety, and aesthetics
  - Electric (FPL)
  - Telephone (AT&T)
  - Cable (Comcast)
- Provide candid, objective information on overall project scope, projected City-wide timeframe, and overall financing
- Provide candid, objective information on “before,” “during,” and “after” for individual customers, including timeframes and renderings for disruption, aesthetics, vegetation (tree canopies, roots), etc.
- Provide estimated cost breakdown and financing choices for each property owner by category, consistent with assessment strategy being developed
- Gain community ideas and listen to make the project better

# Other Important Community Engagement Issues

- Need to specifically address and engage with residents who already have underground service at their home and in their neighborhoods
  - Include in discussion how “upstream” overhead customers affect those underground customers “downstream”
  - Include in discussion issues related to schools, restaurants, banks, offices, stores, and traffic lights in other neighborhoods of the City that remain overhead affect neighbors living in underground communities
- Need to specifically address and engage with economically challenged residents to gain input and feedback from them
- Critical to obtain information, concerns, feedback, and ideas from all areas of the public
- Utilize as many communications information, feedback, and listening “channels” as possible
- Information provided must be timely, accurate, useful, consistent, and relevant/applicable for specific audiences
- Continue to enhance communications and responses to query throughout the plan’s execution based on public input and ideas
- If the City Commission wishes to proceed to a ballot question, community engagement efforts will continue until the election date

# Communications Channels and Stakeholders

- E-mail
- Letters
- City website ([www.coralgablesundergrounding.com](http://www.coralgablesundergrounding.com)), Smart City Hub, Zen City
  - Public information
  - Public comments / feedback
  - Input will be regularly monitored and analyzed, including artificial intelligence
- City E-news
- City official podcast
- *Coral Gables Magazine*
- Larger general community meetings (North Gables, Central Business District, North of Sunset/South of Coral Way, South of Sunset)
- Smaller neighborhood meetings
- Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
- Other interested groups, organizations, and thought leaders
- City policymakers and administration

# Community and Neighborhood Meetings

- To be conducted by City's consultants led by Stantec
- Community presentation materials will include:
  - Front-and-back one-pager flyer
  - Presentation deck for A/V use, as well as in printed format as a "leave-behind" for all attendees and capable of being emailed as well
    - Presentation materials will be customized where appropriate for specific neighborhoods / audiences to be most relevant and applicable to them
  - Presentation display boards as needed
  - Written "Frequently Asked Questions" responses to query (RTQs) with answers to frequently-asked and tough questions



# Critical Path/Timeline for Community Engagement Plan

**(Each of these is a planned “no later than” date)**

- November 12 - December 18, 2019:
  - Inventory known neighborhood and business associations and organizations
  - Develop communications pieces, messaging, renderings, etc. for all communications channels and stakeholders
  - Preliminarily reserve placeholder dates, times, and locations for charrettes and general community meetings
- December 2019: Development of draft website ([www.coralgablesundergrounding.com](http://www.coralgablesundergrounding.com))
- January 3, 2020: Test website and City IT products
- January 3, 2020: All communications materials finalized
- January 8, 2020: Project Lead Group to review communications materials and rollout plan
- January 13, 2020: City-wide communication to all individual emails, addresses, and neighborhood groups
- January 15, 2020: Project Progress Report #1 presented to Project Lead Group

# Critical Path/Timeline for Community Engagement Plan (cont.)

**(Each of these is a planned “no later than” date)**

- January 20, 2020: communications placed in City e-news
- January 20 – March 2020: communications on City podcast
- January 20 – March 2020: schedule and hold neighborhood meetings
- February 1, 2020: Project Progress Report #2 presented to Project Lead Group
- February 2020: placement of article in *Coral Gables Magazine*
- February 15, 2020: Project Progress Report #3 presented to Project Lead Group
- February and/or March 2020: presentation before Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
- March 1, 2020: Project Progress Report #4 presented to Project Lead Group
- March 15, 2020: Project Progress Report #5 presented to Project Lead Group
- April 1, 2020: Report and recommendations regarding entire project finalized for City Commission Workshop(s)

# Other Dates for Overall Project

- On or before early April 2020 (date TBD): City Commission workshop to discuss and review report and recommendations on consideration of City-wide undergrounding of utilities
- April 28, 2020 (May 12, 2020 back-up date): Hold City Commission public hearing to discuss and potentially vote on resolution for ballot question to be held on August 18, 2020 election day
- IF City determines not to proceed to vote of electors
  - Prepare final report and conclusions of preliminary phase for City record
  - Inform City stakeholders and community of decision not to proceed
- IF City determines to proceed to vote of electors
  - Utilize April - August 18, 2020 vote to continue to engage and outreach to City stakeholders and community

# Project Reports

- Twice-monthly reports are being prepared for the Project Lead Group to **address all issues concerning the overall project**, in furtherance of City Commission Resolution No. 2019-346 (November 12, 2019):
  - Preliminary financial analysis and property assessment strategy
  - Community engagement
  - Project scoping and phasing
- Purpose of these reports is to ensure:
  - Accountability
  - Issues, comments, concerns, opportunities for improvement, new and emerging ideas and dynamics are addressed
  - Proactivity and preparation
  - Report and recommendations completed for City Commission workshop(s) to take place on or before early April 2020

# THANK YOU

Questions and answers (Q&A)