

April 21, 2010

To: Maria Menendez, Office of the City Manager

From: Mrs. Larry Adams, Co-Chairmen of the Coral Gables Garden Club's "Althea Merrick Monument Committee."

Subject: Coral Gables Garden Club's request for City Commission approval of their plan and process to complete the final segments of their existing partnership agreement with the city. The established partnership resolution designated the Coral Gables Garden Club as the City's partner to plan, design, fund, construct and dedicate to the city a life size bronze monument of Mrs. Althea Merrick, George Merrick's mother, that would be located in the garden at the historical Merrick House.

Purpose: The Garden Club and the City's intent is to provide further honor and recognition to George Merrick and his family in appreciation for their vision, commitment and perseverance that created our beautiful community of excellence.



For the City Managers information:

The City and the Garden Club established a partnership process over twenty years ago that has proven to be a successful business plan that has provided the community with three beautiful entrances and the George Merrick Statue. The Garden Club funded the above stated projects by generating 1.2 million dollars in direct cash and in kind contributions during the past twenty plus years. Contributors eagerly donated with a sense of community pride. This public/private business plan has provided a proven template of success for other communities to replicate. I have had the honor to conceive, create and chair the Garden Club's "Adopt an Entrance Project" since its inception. Garden Club members have performed in a manner that can rightly be labeled beyond exemplary. Coral Gables elected officials and administration representatives have been excellent partners in every regard.

The Althea Merrick Monument Project has tracked the established process without exception. Garden Club representatives presented the project details and achieved approval to pursue the project from former City Manager, David Brown, the Mayor and each City Commissioner individually prior to the commissions' resolution that approved the project and its partnership status. Per commission's direction, we presented and received approvals from the following Advisory Boards: Cultural Arts, Historic Preservation and the Merrick House. This requested agenda item is necessary in order for us to present the current situation concerning the selection of the sculptor and foundry, a rendering of Mrs. Merrick's pose and the Garden Club's need to complete a performance contract with the sculptor/foundry. Upon approval, the Garden Club and the sculptor/foundry can begin the fabrication process.