



**City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
February 12, 2019**

**ITEM TITLE:**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXTEND AND AMEND AN AGREEMENT WITH FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN, INC. TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE MILLION ORCHID PROJECT, AS INITIALLY AUTHORIZED IN RESOLUTION 2014-52

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

In 2014 the City entered into an agreement with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden to participate in the Million Orchid Project. The agreement calls for the City to provide \$ 30,000 a year for five years, plus the use of a bucket truck and driver, to Fairchild in the exchange for the installation of 50,000 orchids a year on City trees for a total of 250,000 orchids.”

Since installations began in 2016, the City has installed 14,380 orchids per year (average) for a total of 43,140 total orchids over the 3 years the project has been in place.

The attached ‘distribution overview’ spreadsheet describes the locations, quantities and specific species of orchids that have been installed to date. Due to the slower installation pace, it could take close to 16 years to reach 250,000 orchids installed. The installation rate is slower than anticipated due to a smaller number of Fairchild volunteers than originally anticipated, and the fact that City landscape service staff has been fully utilized to work load capacity with hurricane IRMA recovery, and more pressing City landscape projects including the seven historic entrances, Venetian Pool, Merrick House, Miracle Mile and Giralda, and the IRMA tree replacement project (planting of 1000 new trees).

The City is not providing a bucket truck and driver to Fairchild as the original agreement states, but is providing 2-3 crew members from the landscape services staff to work with volunteers from Fairchild to assist with labor for installations as requested by the Fairchild, and the Fairchild participated at a few Coral Gables farmers markets and distributed free orchids to Coral Gables residents in 2018. Fairchild is also in the process of working with City special events staff members to set up a permanent orchid distribution tent at each of the 11 farmers’ markets where they plan to distribute up to 2,000 orchids at each market to increase distribution numbers moving forward. City staff is currently working to identify the next phases of installation along the Alhambra circle median trees, and Granada Boulevard trees.

The City wishes to extend and amend the original agreement with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc. for a term of 10 years, with up to five (5) additional one (1) year renewals as needed to complete the installation of 250,000 orchids, amending the original terms to account for the fact that City staff will be working with the Fairchild to assist with labor for installations, but will not be providing a bucket truck and driver ; and extending the term for payment, leaving the not to exceed amount at \$150,000.

- 1. Proposed Resolution**
- 2. 2014 Agreement**
- 3. Distribution overview**