

# Memorandum



**Date:** February 18, 2014

**To:** Honorable Harvey Ruvin  
Clerk of the Court

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez".

**Subject:** Land Acquisition Selection Committee Appointment

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The Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) is a county advisory board having seven regular members and one alternate. The LASC advises the Board of County Commissioners on implementing the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program in order to acquire, protect, preserve, restore and enhance the County's environmental lands and the natural resources on those lands for the benefit of this and future generations.

A serving LASC member moved out of state, creating a vacancy on the board. As required by Chapter 24-50.6 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, I am hereby submitting two nominees per vacancy for appointment by the County Commission.

The nominees for the Regular Member vacancy:

1. Patricia L. Phares, 17615 SW 119 Avenue, Miami
2. Amy Creekmur, 18450 SW 212 Street, Miami

Chapter 24-50.6 also provides that preference be given to candidates who have a record of service in environmental or civic affairs in Miami-Dade County and who have been recommended by one or more bona fide environmental, civic or professional organizations. Ms. Phares is recommended by the Florida Native Plant Society. Ms. Creekmur is recommended by the Grove Tree-Man Trust.

The nominees' resumes and letters of recommendation are attached. Please schedule the appointment for the County Commission agenda as soon as possible.

Attachments

Patricia L. Phares (Patty)  
17615 SW 119 Ave Miami FL 33177

### **Environmental and Civic Involvement**

#### **Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**

Member and volunteer, 1981-present  
Newsletter editor or staff, 1986-present  
Field trip planning committee, 2000-present  
Native Plant Day committee, 1991-2008  
Everglades National Park Coe Visitors Center Landscaping Project steering committee, 2001-present  
Chapter president, 1988-1994, Chapter board member, 1985-1988  
State FNPS Conference Co-chair, 1990 and 2000  
Green Palmetto Award for service from the Florida Native Plant Society, 2000

#### **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Center for Tropical Plant Conservation**

Field and nursery volunteer, 2002-present  
Participant in the "Connect to Protect Network", 2008-present

#### **Institute for Regional Conservation**

Member and volunteer, 2004-present; Board member, September 2011-present

#### **North American Butterfly Association, Miami Blue Chapter**

Member and volunteer, 2004-present; Board member 2011- present

#### **Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida**

Member, 1986-present; Board member, 2006-present  
Annual Everglades Outing (for underserved children) committee, lunch coordinator, 2009-present

#### **Other:**

Civic Chorale of Greater Miami / MDC Community Chorus - Executive Committee, 2009-present  
Dade County Native Plant Workshop - 2008-present  
Miami Bridge - Volunteer at youth shelter, 1985-1986  
Trees for Dade (predecessor of TREEmendous Miami) – Volunteer and Board member, 1991-1999  
Tropical Audubon Society - Member and volunteer, 1990-present

### **Education**

Master of Statistics, University of Florida, 1977  
MA, Mathematics, University of Florida, 1972  
BA, Mathematics, Hanover College (Hanover, Indiana), 1970  
Botany courses, Miami Dade College, 1992

### **Employment**

Contractor at NOAA Fisheries, Miami (short-term contracts 2007-2009)  
Volunteer at NOAA Fisheries, Miami, March 2007-August 2007  
Statistician, NOAA Fisheries (Galveston, TX, and Miami), 1977-February 2007  
Graduate student assistant, Department of Statistics, University of Florida, 1975-1977  
Peace Corps Volunteer, Western Samoa (math and social studies teacher), 1973-1974  
Graduate student assistant, Department of Mathematics, University of Florida, 1970-1972  
Student assistant, Department of Mathematics, Hanover College, 1976-1970



01 January 2014

Cynthia Guerra, Program Director  
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program  
Miami-Dade County - DERM  
701 N.W. 1 Ct., 6th Floor  
Miami, FL 33136

Dear Ms. Guerra,

It has been brought to my attention that once again there are openings for the Miami-Dade County Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC). It would behoove the mission of the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management Environmentally Endangered Lands Program to accept Ms. Patty Phares on this committee.

As stated in previous letters, Ms. Phares has been a long time advocate and devotee to conservation in South Florida. Such devotion has been evidenced by her involvement with the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS). Since joining in the 1980's, Ms. Phares has been an active FNPS member & participant aiding FNPS in its mission. Ms. Phares is well suited to the needs of the LASC committee. Ms. Phares has strong community ties and is adeptly familiar with South Florida conservation lands and their rare habitats. She is familiar with South Florida having lived in our fair county for several decades. In addition, you could not find a more knowledgeable person who is capable of using extant resources as well as her in depth knowledge to assist in the analyses determining necessary qualifications for land acquisition. She is also a responsible individual capable of handling several tasks at once while still managing to do a superb job on each one.

I feel strongly that future conservation lands would benefit greatly by Patty Phares involved in their review and selection, and I encourage you to accept her to the LASC committee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Woodmansee, President  
Florida Native Plant Society  
8025 SW 102 Ave.  
Miami, FL 33173  
[president@fnps.org](mailto:president@fnps.org)  
786.488.3101

*The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant communities. FNPS is a 501(c) 3 not for profit organization registered in the state of Florida.*

AMY G. CREEKMUR  
18450 Southwest 212<sup>th</sup> Street Miami, FL 33187

**Work History:**

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY (September 2013 to present/part time)

Event and Volunteer Coordinator / Toyota TogetherGreen Grant Administrator

Oversee events and volunteer recruitment/placement for the non-profit organization

FRIENDS OF THE EVERGLADES (March 2013 to present/part-time)

Educator

Conduct environmental education sessions at K-12 schools.

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY/ART INSTITUTE (July 2004 to present /part-time)

Instructor: Fashion Show Production

Educate college level students the "ins and outs" of producing and organizing fashion show productions and events.

SOBOL FASHION PRODUCTIONS, INC. (Project /term basis 1999 to present)

Assist in coordination and production of special events. Specifically Miami Fashion Week annually.

TREEMENDOUS MIAMI, INC. (August 2000 to February 2013)

Program Coordinator

Oversee a non-profit volunteer organization united to build community pride by planting, protecting and preserving trees in Miami-Dade County. Coordinate volunteer tree planting projects countywide by recruiting various volunteer organizations forming partnerships.

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER SOUTH FLORIDA

PLEA Program Director

Project PLEA, an environmental education program/workshop stressing the importance of incorporating "the environment" into curriculum. Conducted in various languages.

CROSSMARK (1999-2001)

Merchandiser

Area merchandiser concentrating in drug and department store chains.

HI-RISE RECYCLING SYSTEMS, INC. (1994 -1998)

National Education Specialist / Customer Service Coordinator

Coordinate national recycling education activities for recycling equipment manufacturer. Act as company liaison with customers. Events coordinator (internal & external).

CITIZENS TO PRESERVE FLORIDA (1991 - 1993)

Regional Coordinator

A grass roots project informing the public about the severe impacts of global warming and implementation of remedies.

**EDUCATION:**

INTERNATIONAL FINE ARTS COLLEGE :

Miami, Florida Associates of Arts Degree 1979 - Fashion Merchandising / Design

MASTER GARDENERS PROGRAM

Degree 2002 :University of Florida/Cooperative Extension Division

**Qualifications:**

Organizational skills.

Ability to favorably introduce change in the form of new and productive ideas.

Avid and active conservationist.

The Grove Tree-Man Trust  
2940 SW 30<sup>th</sup> Court  
Miami, FL 33133

January 17, 2014

Ms. Cynthia Guerra  
Miami Dade County  
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program  
RER DERM  
701 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Court, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Miami, FL 33136

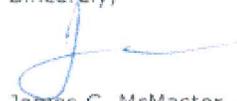
Dear Ms. Guerra,

I am writing on behalf of The Grove Tree-Man Trust, a not for profit tree advocacy organization in the City of Miami, in support of Ms. Amy Creekmurs' application to serve Miami-Dade County on the Land Acquisition Selection Committee.

Ms. Creekmur has an extensive background in natural habitat restoration. She dedicated the past twelve years to serving as the Executive Director of TREEmendous Miami, a not for profit tree advocacy organization in Miami-Dade County. Her knowledge of the objectives of the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and commitment to its success make her an ideal candidate. She is currently employed as an Environmental Educator for Friends of the Everglades where she educates the public about conservation issues. She also acts as the Program Lead with Tropical Audubon Society in administering a grant from Toyota Together Green by Audubon in building native bird habitat in South Florida.

Ms. Creekmur would be an asset to the committee. Thank you for your consideration of her application.

Sincerely,



James G. McMaster, President  
The Grove Tree-Man Trust  
305-443-1312