March 18, 2014

community image advisory board

Beautifying Our Community

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service
ATTN: Mr. Charlie Marcus, Urban Forestry Coordinator

RE: 2014 National Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Dear Mr. Marcus:

The Community Image Advisory Board Million Trees Miami Initiative is proud to support the Citizens for a Better South Florida (CITIZENS) Application for administration assistance with their innovative Urban Greening and Community Forestry/Citizen Forester Program.

The Million Trees Miami Campaign is a community-wide effort to plant 1 million trees by 2020 in order to achieve a 30 percent tree canopy cover for Miami-Dade County. Our campaign was developed by the Miami-Dade Community Image Advisory Board and was born of the idea that a healthy and sustainable urban forest provides significant social, economic, and environmental benefits that fosters a high quality, livable, vibrant, and beautiful community. CITIZENS has been a valuable partner in our efforts to reach 30 percent urban tree canopy percent – both in tree plantings and in the cultivation of tree stewards for the next generation.

CITIZENS has been providing environmental education to the residents of Miami-Dade for 25 years, particularly to the diverse underserved communities. We hope that through your grant CITIZENS will continue to help us by educating, inspiring and engaging individuals to volunteer and become more civically engaged in protecting our natural resources.

Please know that we are fully supportive of this application for Citizens' Urban Greening and Community Forestry Program, which is in complete alignment with the work of the CIAB Million Trees Miami Initiative. We look forward to a continued partnership with Citizens for a Better South Florida in restoring South Florida's urban forest.

Sincerely,

Patrice Gillespie Smith
Community Image Manager
Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces