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**LAST FRUIT TREE GIVEAWAY EVENT FOR GREEN MIAMI CAMPAIGN 2009
TO PROVIDE TREES, EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION AND TASTING
*Planting Your Own Fruit Saves money, Saves the Earth and Tastes Great!***

MIAMI, FL – July 20, 2009 – Following the success of the first two Fruit Tree Giveaway events held May 30 and June 13, City of Miami staff and volunteers will be distributing an additional 750 fruit trees (mango, tamarind, avocado and lychee) on Saturday July 25, 2009 at the Robert King High Park (7025 West Flagler Street) from 8am to 12pm to City of Miami residents ONLY.

Experts will also be on site to teach hands-on how to plant and care for the trees. Educational material about avoiding “hatracking”, also known as improper pruning that removes more than 25 percent of the tree’s canopy, will also be available.

Residents interested in the fruit trees will be eligible to receive up to two four-ft. trees on a first-come, first-serve basis, per household, upon presenting proof of residency, such as a driver’s license or ID card with a City of Miami address and a utility bill with a City of Miami address.

“ A fruit tree is a much better gift than a fruit basket,” says City of Miami Commissioner Tomas Regalado District 4.

The fruit tree giveaway events are part of the City’s *Green Miami* Campaign and its first-ever Tree Master Plan that creates minimum standards in order to enhance, restore and stabilize the City’s tree canopy cover to a minimum of 30 percent by 2017 as well as to preserve and enhance Miami’s urban canopy This effort aims in reaching out to City of Miami residents interested in planting fruit trees, creating shade in their yard and decreasing their carbon footprint.

Residents can also request that free shade trees are planted in the right of way near their homes through their Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) offices. New requests for trees from city residents are welcome by the City of Miami NET offices by calling 305-960-4NET or your local NET office.

For additional information about *Green Miami*, please call the Miami Office of Sustainable Initiatives at 305-416-1601, visit www.ourgreenmiami.org or www.miamigov.com

ABOUT THE GREEN MIAMI CAMPAIGN

Mayor Manny Diaz created the City of Miami Green Commission in 2006 to allow citizen input and expert insight on the city’s green policies. In April 2008, Mayor Diaz and the Green Commission announced the launch of the Green Miami Campaign, an exciting initiative to restore Miami’s tree canopy into a thriving urban forest through community tree plantings and education. The Green Miami Campaign will increase community awareness of the benefits of trees and how to protect them. The campaign is a partnership between Mayor Diaz’s Green Commission, the City of Miami, and community tree planting and educational organizations such as Citizens for a Better South Florida, Hands on Miami, Tremendous Miami, Roots in the City, Operation Green Leaves, and the Treeman Trust.