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**THE 79TH STREET CORRIDOR COMMUNITY SECURES EPA FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

HOLLYWOOD, FL – Ron Butler, Executive Director of the 79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative, announced today that the 79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative has secured a \$300,000 grant for environmental assessment and rehabilitation efforts along the 79th Street Corridor community from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Program through a partnership with the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) and the Southeast Florida Brownfields Redevelopment Coalition (Coalition). “This most recent success is the byproduct of a long-standing relationship and decades long effort by the South Florida Regional Planning Council, Miami-Dade County, New Urban Development LLC, Miami-Dade College, Citi Community Development, and additional community stakeholders to support the 79th Street Coalition and community through strategic economic and community planning,” said Ron Butler, Executive Director of the 79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative, Inc.



Community-wide grant funds will be used to conduct three Phase I and six Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to develop three cleanup plans and three reuse plans. The target area is the 79th Street Corridor located in west-central unincorporated Miami-Dade County and bordered by the City of Hialeah, Liberty City, and City of Miami. The 79th Street Corridor features industrial land, extensive transit and rail infrastructure, and a historic community. The project sites are located in one of the 67 [Opportunity Zones](#) and Federal Trade Zones of Miami-Dade County. Priority sites include a 13.8-acre former private landfill, a 20-acre assemblage of 12 properties used by unregulated industries, and a 4.5-acre assemblage of 8 parcels that include a former gas station and automotive repair shop.

“I am pleased the EPA Brownfields Program funds, which have been instrumental in creating jobs, promoting voluntary cleanups, reducing public cost for installing infrastructure in greenspaces, and encouraging community revitalization, have been awarded to the 79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative, Inc. for cleanup and reuse plans along this major commercial zone. I look forward to continuing to supporting these efforts. On behalf of the residents of District 2, thank you to the SFRPC who helped to secure these essential funds which will assist in fully activating and renovating the 79th Street Corridor.”

**~ Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime, District 2
SFRPC Councilmember; Vice Chair 2014**

“Our residents hope for clean and vibrant areas to work and thrive. The 79th Street Corridor area focuses on the need for new economic investments that will lead to jobs for area residents and provide access to good jobs, easier access to public transportation, and to implement green initiatives that will beautify the area. We genuinely appreciate the SFRPC’s support on this EPA grant opportunity, and your investment in our efforts to improve the quality of life and advance opportunity for entrepreneurs and residents in our community. Many Thanks!

**~ Ron Butler, Executive Director
79th Street Corridor Neighborhood Initiative**

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In addition to spearheading this environmental assessment and cleanup effort, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, which serves as the regional planning agency for Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties and U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development District (1994), assisted the 79th Street Corridor Partners and community in the development of its 2015 Community Action Plan, with transportation workshops, in the identification of qualified census tracts for Florida's Opportunity Zone designations in 2018, small business lending, and other technical assistance.

The SFRPC has been a regional leader in brownfields related activities since securing the region's designation as a National Brownfields Showcase Community in 1998. This grant furthers implementation of the 2015 Community Action Plan and 2019 Action Plan developed by the 79th Street Community Redevelopment Agency which seeks to promote higher wage job creation, mobility, affordable housing, green space, and educational opportunities for area residents.

The Southeast Florida Brownfields Redevelopment Coalition is a unique partnership of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and Miami Waterkeeper, a nonprofit organization focused on improving regional water quality. The Coalitions works closely with its consultant team Cardno Engineering to reduce environmental impacts and resiliency challenges while helping communities to move priority brownfield sites forward with cleanup, design, and redevelopment to return abandoned and underutilized sites to productive community benefit.

Since 1974, the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) has served as the regional planning agency for Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties. The Council's mission is to identify the long-term challenges and opportunities facing Southeast Florida and assist the region's leaders, as well as public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders through regional, collaborative planning in developing and implementing creative strategies that result in more prosperous communities, ultimately shaping a better future for South Florida.

The [EPA's Brownfields Program](#) empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002, as amended by the Brownfields Utilization, Investment and Local Development Act of 2018, was passed to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfield sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through five competitive grant programs: Multipurpose Grants, Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

For more information about the SFRPC and the services offered, please contact Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer and Brownfields Program Manager at jtart@sfrpc.com. Stay informed by subscribing to our highlights, visit our website at www.sfrpc.org.

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