



# Memorandum

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Date: August 14, 2024

To: Mayor Christi Fraga  
Vice Mayor Oscar Puig-Corve  
Councilwoman Digna Cabral  
Councilman Rafael Pineyro

From: Councilwoman Maureen Porras

Subject: **Support for “Composting Training Program Partnership” with University of Florida (UF)**

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## **Introduction**

I respectfully request support for the proposed “Composting Training Program Partnership” with the University of Florida (UF). This partnership between the City of Doral and the University of Florida strongly aligns with our Green Initiatives.

## **Background**

During the June 13, 2024 Environmental Advisory Board (Board) meeting, the Board recommended establishing an official partnership with the University of Florida (UF) as the City of Doral’s official instructor for Composting training and education. During the same meeting, the Board asked me, as liaison between the Board and City Council, to present to the City Council the aforementioned recommendation.

Currently in Florida, only 1% of food waste is recycled. This partnership aims to raise awareness about reducing waste and diverting it from landfills by using technology that can sustainably reduce, reuse, and recycle materials through courses provided by the University of Florida.

The University of Florida, a top-five public land-grant university, currently works alongside Miami-Dade County to create free seminars that educate the public on composting. See attached summary of the program currently provided by Miami Dade County and UF. This partnership will bring these same or similar seminars directly to the residents of Doral. The seminars will teach the step-by-step process of turning leaves, branches, paper plates, and other recyclable materials into rich organic soil called compost, among other things.

The project will take a holistic approach by targeting schools, homes, and the workplace to maximize the partnership’s benefits. There are many advantages to this project. Primarily, this educational program will positively impact the atmosphere by reducing the amount of methane released into the air. Additionally, the project will have a positive economic effect on the City of Doral because less organic waste will be taken to landfills. This partnership will move towards a more sustainable community by educating the public on ways to contribute to environmental sustainability.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$0. This program will create no costs for participants or the City of Doral.

**Recommendation**

I ask my colleagues to support the following recommendations:

1. Direct the City Manager to create a Memorandum of Understanding with UF to recognize UF as the City’s official partner for composting training and education.
2. Direct the corresponding departments (Public Works, Parks and Recs, etc.) to organize composting trainings available to the community presented by UF.

Thank you in advance for your support.