

BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

LETTER TO COUNCIL

NO. 134-2016

To: Mayor Martin Packer and Members of the Village Council
From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager 
Date: July 8, 2016
Subject: Million Orchid Project Ceremonial Planting

The purpose of this Letter to Council (LTC) is to provide you with information regarding the upcoming Ceremonial planting of three hundred (300) rare orchids on Thursday, July 21, 2016 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

As you recall, at the March 2015 Village Council Meeting, a representative of Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Mr. Leslie Bowe presented details about the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's efforts to reintroduce one million native orchid plants into Miami-Dade County and its municipalities. Modeled after a successful orchid restoration program in the city of Singapore, Fairchild has developed a strategy for planting rare orchids into local urban landscapes. They are propagating some of Florida's rarest orchids, including some that are nearly extinct, within their new orchid propagation laboratory. The project goal is to partner with municipalities, organizations and individuals to make orchids a highly visible component of life in South Florida. The project is anticipated to have the first generation of reestablished orchids blooming within five years. Throughout the project, Fairchild scientists are teaching visitors, students, and the local community about the complexity and fragility of natural South Florida environments and the importance of habitat restoration.

As the Village Council directed, Bal Harbour Village is participating in this important project and during the FY 16 budget process, fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) was approved to fund the initial seven thousand (7,500) orchids at two dollars (\$2) per orchid. The Orchids planned for installation within the Village are now in production. As part of this project, all interested parties are invited to participate in a Ceremonial planting of three hundred (300) rare orchids, which is scheduled to be held on July 21, 2016 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. The planting will occur along the vegetation area beginning immediately behind of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel (vegetation area of the beach) and moving towards the south along the beach.

This information will also be transmitted within the July Bal Harbour Village Newsletter.

For further information regarding this project, please contact John Oldenburg directly.

JMG/JAO