



## Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations, Inc.

*Serving the Greater Kendall Community since 1976*

12900 SW 84<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, Florida 33183

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[www.kfha.org](http://www.kfha.org)

## **KFHA/FPL COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Dear Mayor Cava and the Parks Department,

In January of 2021, Florida Power and Light (“FPL”) went in front of Community Council 11 and asked for permission to monetize six acres of land under their power lines. The purpose of this was to build a parking lot for businesses to store excess vehicles and pay a rental fee to FPL for the right to do so. The Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations (“KFHA”) attended that Community Council meeting and objected but offered a compromise. The KFHA stated that, if FPL was allowed to have six acres for a parking lot, the Community should also have six acres: Five acres for a Community Garden and one acre for a Dog Park.

FPL objected but the KFHA was insistent. The Community Council deferred the item and suggested we “work something out”. Within 3 minutes of the end of that meeting, FPL and the KFHA did work something out. The KFHA agreed to support the FPL parking lot and FPL agreed to make arrangements for the Community to have the Community Garden and the Dog Park. FPL would make a deal for the County to be able to have an equal six acres.

That was three years ago ... February 2021.

The very next day, after that Community Council meeting, I started calling various groups seeking help for how to do a Community Garden. Superintendent Carvalho was totally onboard as this would be a huge benefit for students. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (from the University of Florida, located in Homestead) agreed to help guide us. There were an untold number of supporters who wanted to be a part of this. Again, this was in February 2021.

The Parks Department did some research and came up with a plan and the cost involved to do this project. This was also three years ago.

Shortly after that document was created, I received a call from the Parks Department saying that, “one of the reasons Community Gardens fail is because the Community does not have a group willing to take ownership”. After hearing that, I went to our KFHA Board of Directors, who agreed to take “ownership”, and I shared that with the Parks Department.

The KFHA did some preliminary work on how best to manage the Community Garden and Dog Park, but our hands were tied because we had no control as to when the Parks Department was going to start the process. As the months and years went by, we heard nothing except, “we are still working on the contract with FPL”.

As it has been three years since that Community Council meeting took place, and since we have had no communications from the Parks Department regarding anything about the status of the program, the KFHA Board has decided we can no longer be part of managing a project that has no support from the current administration or Parks Department. We believe the project is very worthy and we are hopeful that one day, if this project ever does advance, you might find some other organization that wants to oversee the operations of the Community Garden and Dog Park. Of course, we had hoped to replicate this Community Garden model/project in every district in Miami-Dade County, once we proved success in Kendall, and FPL seemed to agree with that.

The KFHA is, of course, moving forward with projects that we can control that bring a “betterment for the people of Kendall”, as in our Mission Statement.

We wish you the best with this wonderful gift from FPL and hope that one day you can finalize the contract and work with another Kendall organization that will take responsibility for this project.

April 24, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mich Rosenberg", is written over a horizontal line.

**Michael Rosenberg, President**  
Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations, Inc.

**FPL has completed their project and, for over two years now, has been renting space to cars and trucks.**

**The Community Garden is still a dream.**

