



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

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For Immediate Release

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### COUNCILMEMBER EMERALD AND HER COUNCIL COLLEAGUES UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE-LIVING LAB PROJECT

Councilmember Emerald and her Council colleagues unanimously approved the construction of an 11,737 square foot educational facility with a 380 square foot residential studio on a 0.64 acre site located at 4255 Thorn Street in the City Heights community.

In 2011, Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) was recognized for their community work, receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from President Obama – the first award of its kind given in our region. ODI uses the ocean sciences to prepare tomorrow's science and conservation leaders in order to transform lives and community with a focus on City Heights. The City Heights canyons provide an ideal platform for this work and connect this highly urbanized area to our coast.

ODI's work includes projects that engage the entire City Heights community in science relevant to their daily lives, standards-based science programs in their schools, and intensive scientific education and college coaching that empower young people to pursue science careers. This work results in increases in environmental stewardship, science test scores, and numbers of students who attend college and pursue science degrees.

Councilmember Emerald stated, "This project will transform the community of City Heights including the young people themselves. By empowering youth to make a difference, they build self-confidence in their abilities to make changes in themselves and the community around them!"

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