



## MEMORANDUM

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Date: October 10, 2024 City Commission meeting

To: The City Commission for the City of Key West

From: Ron Ramsingh, City Attorney

Subject: A Resolution Requesting that the U.S. Navy and the Federal Delegation Consider Developing the Western Vacant Parcel at Sigsbee Park for Base Housing of its Military Personnel and Civilian Employees

Sponsors: Commissioner Lee

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### **Background**

The U.S. Navy owned and operated 166 units of townhouse-style housing on the western 18-acre parcel at the Sigsbee Park facility within the City of Key West. The units sustained significant damage as a result of Hurricane Wilma in 2005, which rendered many, if not all of the 166 units uninhabitable. The units sat in disrepair for 16 years until the Navy demolished the 166 units in May 2021. Between the demolition of Sigsbee Housing in 2021 and the recent closure of 2 barracks on Truman Annex, Navy personnel were issued enhanced housing allocations to secure rental housing in the civilian market. Attached is a breakdown of the Navy housing allowance for NAS Key West personnel.

In 2015, the City Commission passed Resolution 16-015, which encouraged the Navy to make those units available to both military and civilian personnel and families for workforce housing. The current Resolution differs slightly in that it requests that the Navy and the federal delegation construct new base housing and incentivize current Navy personnel to move back to Sigsbee Park, thereby vacating existing non-military housing throughout Key West. This can result in increased rental inventory for the non-military residents of Key West. With more residential rental units becoming available, the likelihood of more competitive rental rates is probable.

### **Cost**

The current Resolution will not result in any costs to the City.

**Options:**

1. Deny the proposed Resolution. The Navy and our federal delegation will not have an official position from the City of Key West regarding the vacant 18-acre site for housing.
2. Approve the proposed Resolution. The Navy and our federal delegation will be reminded not only of the City's continued struggle to establish affordable housing, but also that there exists a parcel ripe for the reconstruction of former housing, which will make a positive impact on housing in Key West.

**Recommendation:**

To pass the proposed Resolution.