

CITY OF KEY WEST
CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD
PO BOX 1946
KEY WEST, FL 33041
(305) 809 -3887

APPLICATION

Name: Amanda Velázquez

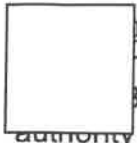
CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD (CRB): The City Charter sets out the criteria for membership on the CRB:

- (a) All members of the CRB shall be residents of the City of Key West and have good reputations for integrity and community service;
- (b) No appointee to the CRB or any member of his or her immediate family, shall be currently employed by the City of Key West;
- (c) No appointee may be currently a party in litigation against the City of Key West and the filing of a complaint against the City of Key West alleging liability of the City through actions of any law enforcement officer shall immediately disqualify any appointee from serving on the CRB; and
- (d) Any appointee who has been a legal representative of any party in litigation against the City of Key West is prohibited from serving on the CRB for two years from the conclusion of such litigation.



Answer yes to any of the following questions, you are not eligible to make application to the Citizen Review Board.

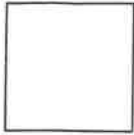
- Are you, your spouse or any immediate family member (children, parents and/or siblings) currently employed by the City of Key West? ____ Yes X No
- 2. Have you, your spouse, or any immediate family member ever been a sworn employee of the City of Key West? ____ Yes X No
- 3. Are you currently a part or a party's legal representative in any litigation against the City of Key West? ____ Yes X No

 **the Citizen Review Board.** Sixty percent (60%) of the voters who went to the polls on November 5, 2002, approved an amendment to the Key West City Charter to create a Citizen Review Board (CRB). This is an independent, seven-member, volunteer (unpaid) board with authority to review and/or investigate complaints involving Key West police officers and forward findings and/or recommendations to City management, the Chief of Police, State Attorney, other state and federal law enforcement agencies and/or grand juries. Any applicant for a position on the CRB must complete this application and submit it within the prescribed deadline noted.

The CRB has a policy of delivering its documents and materials via online/internet communications. **All applicants must have adequate computer skills to send/receive e-mail, with PDF attachments and be able to access the internet and download documents and files.** New CRB members are expected to be available to attend the Annual NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) Convention/training sessions to occur sometime in September 2018. The expenses for this training event shall be covered by the CRB approved budget.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL APPLICATIONS & MATERIALS IS

May 8th, 2019, 5:00 P.M.



CITY OF KEY WEST
CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD (CRB)
APPLICATION

Currently, the board will be filling two positions; one City Commission position, and one Board position. The positions shall be nominated by a local civic or social organization and selected by the Key West City Commission with a term ending on May 31, 2023. Interested candidates should seek sponsorship from a local civic/social organization and fill out the attached application with a cover letter of sponsorship signed by the civic/social organization's representative. All documents sent to the CRB become public records.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM., May 8th, 2019. Mail to: PO Box 1946, Key West, FL 33041-1946 or hand-deliver to City of Key West Citizen Review Board, 100 Grinnell Street (Upstairs inside the Ferry Terminal building), Key West, FL.

DO NOT E-MAIL THE APPLICATION.

Questions: Thomas Pakenas, Executive Director (305) 809-3887 or crb@cityofkeywest-fl.gov. The CRB Charter and Policies & Procedures are available on the City of Key West web site by going to the city website @ www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov and then accessing the CRB homepage via the department drop down menu.

Applicant must be a resident of the City of Key West

Name of Civic or Social Organization Sponsoring Your Application:
(please provide sponsorship letter)

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN - Monroe County Education Foundation

Your Name: Amanda Velazquez

Home Address: 11 Hilton Haven Rd. Key West, FL 33040

Telephone Number (Home): 305 766 2676 (Cell): 305 766 2676

Mailing Address (if different) P.O. Box 4771 Key West, FL 33041

Date of Birth 11/13/73 Sex: M / ☒ F E-Mail Address: amandavelazquez7@gmail.com

Do you have a record of a misdemeanor or felony conviction? If Yes, please explain on a separate sheet of paper? ☐ Yes ☒ No

ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE SCREENED VIA A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND THOSE ARREST RECORDS/RESULTS, ALONG WITH THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS SUBMITTED SHALL BE CONSIDERED A PUBLIC RECORD VIEWABLE BY THE PUBLIC.



1. What aspect of your life and/or work experience has prepared you for membership on

the CRB? (You may attach up to a one-page response.)

Please see attached.

2. Why do you wish to serve on the CRB? (You may attach up to a one-page response.)

Please see attached.

3. List your last three employers: *see attached resume.*

Employer	Position	Dates
<i>Self-Employed.</i>	<i>Attorney / Business Owner</i>	<i>2007 - Present</i>
<i>Jorge Rivera Immigration Law Office.</i>	<i>Attorney</i>	<i>2005 - 2007</i>
<i>Congressman Diaz-Balart</i>	<i>Director of Immigration Services.</i>	<i>2002 - 2005</i>

4. List any organizations with which you are affiliated and position(s)/office(s) held. (You may attach a separate sheet or resume, if necessary.) *see attached resume*

Organization	Position	Dates
REFERENCES. Please provide the names and contact information of two local		

citizens who know you well.

1. Name:

Wayne Dapser

Address:

300 Southard St., Key West, FL 33040.

Daytime phone#: *305-942-6922*

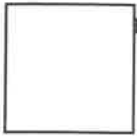
2. Name:

Lynn Wilkins

Address:

422 Fleming, Key West, FL 33040.

Daytime phone#: *305-296-4087*



Attach a brief resume that outlines your background. It is recommended that you

Education
Employment background
Military service
Law enforcement experience
Community service, memberships, affiliations
Awards and honors
Professional affiliations
Special skills, such as languages, computers, mediation
Any other information that would be helpful to those responsible for selecting members to the CRB

Don't forget to include a letter of sponsorship from a sponsoring civic organization

In applying to become a member of the CRB, applicants must agree to participate in at least 30 hours of structured training, as recommended by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), before participating in Board activities, plus extensive continuing education throughout your term of office. **Note that NACOLE training shall occur in September 2019. The expenses related to such training are provided for in the CRB budget.**

Board members are expected to have sufficient technological abilities to receive, open and read pdf files and operate e-mails/attachments, internet access and ability to access websites and download materials from these websites

CERTIFICATION. I hereby certify that all the statements made in this application, including attachments, are true and correct. By signing this application, I authorize verification of my background record.

If appointed to the CRB, I agree to participate in at least 30 hours of structured training, plus extensive continuing education throughout my term of office. To attend the monthly meetings as required.

I also understand that this application becomes a public record and criminal background check results (if any) are available to the public.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

April 9, 2019.

1. What aspect of your life and/or work experience has prepared you for membership on the CRB?

As an attorney, my legal knowledge and training is the main work experience that has prepared me for membership on the CRB. I spend the majority of my day investigating, analyzing, and determining appropriate legal conclusions for my clients regarding their immigration issues. Having a keen eye for spotting issues and an analytical view of how to solve them is a skill that I believe would transfer well as a member of the CRB. Not only have I owned and operated my own law practice for many years, I am also a partner in a local ice cream store in Key West. While these two businesses can seem polar opposite from one other, they are the same in that they require a strong skill set of being able to solve problems, albeit different kinds of problems. This opportunity has broadened my perspective and ability to make recommendations, think of creative solutions and resolve issues new to me.

2. Why do I wish to serve on the CRB?

I would like to serve on the board of the CRB because I believe it is important to volunteer and serve in one's community. There are many wonderful organizations to be a part of in Key West, but when there are only so many hours in the day, I would like to be part of something that I believe I can bring my skill set to, but that also deals with issues that are important to me on a regular, daily basis. As an immigration attorney, oftentimes I am faced with the task of resolving issues dealing with complaints against federal immigration officers and their treatment of individuals. While I believe I can bring a lot to the table, I also know that I can learn a lot from other board members and the NACOLE training. I admire and respect the hard work and dedication of the men and women at the Key West Police Department. I believe that having an independent board that can investigate and give recommendations when a complaint against an officer is filed, is vital to a transparent and accountable police force as well as citizenry. I would very much like to be a part of that process.

Amanda Velazquez
P.O. Box 4771
Key West, Florida 33041
Phone: 305-766-2676.
amandavelazquez7@gmail.com

Core Competency

After 19 years in the legal profession, my core competency skill is the ability to identify a problem, analyze the potential responses and viable solutions, and use logical reasoning to weigh the benefits and costs each possible solution will have on my client. I have a skilled understanding of the significance evidence has on the development of legal strategies. I am meticulous in my organizational skills and meeting goals and deadlines. I am acutely aware of my clients' needs, their businesses and backgrounds and am able to manage their expectations with frequent and straight-forward communication and guide them through the legal challenges they face.

Employment History

Attorney at Law

September 2012 – Present. Amanda Velazquez, P.A. Immigration Counsel.

422 Fleming St., Key West, Fl. 33040

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Ste.603 Coral Gables, Fl. 33134

Representation of clients in all matters limited to Federal U.S. Immigration Laws, including Immigrant Visa and Non-Immigrant Visa applications both within the United States and through Consular Processing, Naturalizations, Political Asylum, Detention and Removal Proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Waivers of Inadmissibility, and Appeals. I also represent clients before the U.S. State Department and the National Visa Center in the immigrant and non-immigrant visa applications and procedures. Duties as a sole-practitioner and in a partnership require my ability to manage and operate the practice, set business targets, provide customer service, and supervise and mentor personnel, delegating jobs, and leading within a team environment.

JSAV Investments, LLC d/b/a "Wicked Lick Liquid Nitrogen Crafted Ice Cream"

July 2018– Present. Partner/ Business Owner

335C Duval St., Key West, Florida 33040.

Artisanal homemade creams, frozen into ice cream using Liquid Nitrogen, for a made-to-order, uniquely visual and culinary experience.

Attorney at Law

2007-2012.	Partner at Joli & Velazquez, P.A. Immigration Attorneys.	Miami, Florida
2005-2007.	Senior Associate Attorney at Jorge Rivera Immigration Law Office.	Coral Gables, Florida
2002-2005.	Director of Immigration Services at United States Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart.	Miami, Florida
2000-2002.	Associate Attorney at Law Offices of Ta-Yu Yang	Des Moines, IA

Education and Training

May 1999.	Juris Doctor.	Drake University Law School.	Des Moines, Iowa
May 1996.	Bachelor of Science/Spanish.	University of Missouri	St. Louis, MO
May 1996.	Bachelor of Arts/Political Science	University of Missouri	St. Louis, MO

Current Licenses /Memberships /Affiliations /Community Service

Licensed to Practice Law in Good Standing Iowa Supreme Court Commissions
Member of the Iowa State Bar Association
Notary Public for the State of Florida
Dade County Business License
Monroe County Business License
Food Safety Manager Certification
Key West Chamber of Commerce
City of Key West Ambassador
Monroe County Take Stock in Children Mentor
Volunteer at Immigration Legal Clinics in Monroe County for Catholic Charities

Language Proficiency

Fluent in Spanish (speaking, reading and writing).



**Monroe County Education
Foundation**
241 Trumbo Road
Key West, FL 33040



April 8, 2019

City of Key West
Citizen Review Board
Attn: Thomas Pakenas, Executive Director
100 Grinnell Street
Key West, Florida 33040

RE: Sponsorship of Amanda Velazquez for Board Member of Citizen Review Board

Dear Board Members and Executive Director Pakenas:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of Sponsorship on behalf of Amanda for a seat on the Board of the Citizen Review Board.

Amanda is a mentor with Take Stock in Children here in Monroe County. Take Stock in Children is an organization that provides a unique opportunity for low-income and at-risk students to help them end the cycle of poverty through education. Take Stock in Children mentors like Amanda, meet with a student on a weekly basis. Amanda currently is mentoring one of our 8th graders who attends Horace O'Bryant Middle School in Key West. She will continue to meet with him throughout his high school career in order to achieve a scholarship for post-secondary education.

Amanda has been an Immigration Attorney for almost 20 years. As an attorney, who is also bilingual in Spanish, her analytical skills and legal training would be an asset to the Citizen Review Board.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Best regards,

Lynne Casamayor
College Success Coach – Monroe County School District
Take Stock in Children
1105 Leon Street
Key West, Florida 33040
Tel 305-293-1400 ext. 53303 / 305-304-9059



Amanda Velazquez <amandavelazquez7@gmail.com>

Support for Amanda Velazquez1 message

John <suenitos@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 9:19 AM

To: crb@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

Cc: Amanda Velazquez <amandavelazquez7@gmail.com>

City of Key West
Citizens Review Board
-- via email --

Hello, neighbors.

I am writing to support the application of Amanda Velazquez, an attorney here, to the Key West Citizens Review Board. I am a facilitator with the city's Ambassador Academy program and can happily report that Ms. Velazquez was a bright and inquisitive participant who graduated with our most recent class, number 31.

I am sure she would be a valuable addition to the board, given the critical analytical skills of her legal training and the added value of her fluency in Spanish.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Best regards,

John Teets
827 Center Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-1403