



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3700

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### COVER MEMO

Date: October 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Todd Stoughton  
Interim City Manager

From: Katie P. Halloran  
Planning Director

Subject: **File 24-6475. Presenting Sustainability Advisory Board Resolution 24-03, Recommendations on Parking Fees**

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#### **Introduction**

The Planning Department recommends that the City Commission carefully consider and take action to realize budgetary and policy recommendations as outlined by the Sustainability Advisory Board through Resolution 24-03. These requests would function to support and improve the City's sustainability, traffic congestion, budget and further the goals of the Key West Forward Strategic Plan.

#### **Background:**

The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) is responsible for advising on sustainability matters to the City and its Commissioners. For six years now "Less Cars on the Road" has been a major goal of the SAB, and recent action items include: Additional funding for Transit; Increase Alternative Transportation education; Implement Bike Ped Master Plan; and Raise Parking Rates.

During their July 24<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop, the City Commission discussed the City Manager approved increase in parking fees for FY25 and some Commissioners stated their desire to create a reduction in parking fees for locals and employees.

During their August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the City's internal Transportation Coordination Team also discussed the City Commission's ideas. The Team, consisting of 4 City Directors and 3 support staff, drafted a letter that supported the budgeted parking fee increase everywhere except for the Park N Ride on Grinnell, and the westernmost Truman Waterfront Lot. Both of these lots have the capacity to accommodate extra parking without losing revenue.

During their August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the SAB also discussed the City Commission's ideas and wrote a letter in support of increasing the parking fees everywhere, in opposition to reducing parking fees for locals and employees and in support of increased education on existing low cost, high value parking permits.

*Key to the Caribbean – average yearly temperature 77 ° Fahrenheit.*



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### **Action**

The Sustainability Advisory Board passed Resolution 24-03 on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to reaffirm their support for the parking fee increase and oppose a wholesale reduction of parking fees for locals and employees. Instead, SAB offers its own solution for FY25: A) strong outreach on the City's existing low-cost parking options for locals and employees, and B) explore a hardship reduction for qualifying options.

### **Procurement**

The FY25 budget is based on all parking meters increasing, so reduced/free parking creates a large General Fund deficit. That FY25 increase supplants revenue that might otherwise have to come from ad valorem taxes or hurricane days.

Reducing parking fees below FY24 rates directly decreases funding to Public Transit, Transportation Alternative Fund, Affordable Housing Fund, and Truman Waterfront.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Approximately 4,000 residents voted Traffic and Pedestrian Friendliness as one of the top 6 Priorities of the City's Strategic Plan and six action items from that Priority include 6 items that speak to decreasing vehicle traffic.

### **Recommendation:**

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor and Commission consider Sustainability Advisory Board Resolution 24-03 and direct staff to enact a pilot program for FY25 that includes strong outreach on existing low-cost, high value parking permits and the creation of a hardship option for special cases. The Planning Department supports the Sustainability Advisory Board's recommendations.

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – The Sustainability Advisory Board Resolution 24-03

Exhibit B – The Sustainability Advisory Board Parking Fee letter

Exhibit C = The Transportation Coordination Team Letter to Commission