



WHEREAS, the citizens of **Key West, Florida** stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, Boys and Girls Club of the Keys has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 23rd 2014, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

WHEREAS, the **City of Key West** is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
October 23, 2014 as

"Lights On Afterschool Day"

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States". We would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 21st day of October 2014.

Craig Cates
Mayor