

**From:** Stephen Hatch [<mailto:keywesthatchman@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2016 12:04 PM

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**Subject:** Fantasy Fest Funding Approval 2016

Dear Mayor Cates and City Commissioners:

I agree completely with Commissioners Payne, Kaufman and Romero in regards to their opposition to Key West City financial support to the producers of Fantasy Fest. Spending city tax dollars (almost a quarter million dollars) for this event is wrong and not in the interest of/or a defined and expected government service required by the city's citizens.

This is another situation where city government is going beyond its defined responsibility in allocating precious tax dollars that are not a priority of the Key West Citizens. Just like providing tax dollar funding to organizations deemed special by the City Commission is not considered to be the Commission's responsibility and should also be left to private industry and individuals.

Every day we hear about the high cost of living in Key West and seldom do we hear how the City Commission, City Manager and departments within the city are continuing to work together towards reducing costs. Why is it always more and more tax money? Businesses can't operate this way and continually need to look for ways to reduce costs or they will cease to exist and neither should any government agency.

Please rein in any and all spending for these non-essential activities that don't meet a high priority need and responsibility of the Key West City. Providing city tax dollar support for Fantasy Fest is wrong and should be the responsibility of those profiting. Let the business within the TDC pay the extra costs the city incurs for Fantasy Fest.

Sincerely,

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