



PROCLAMATION

- Whereas, Arbor Day is nationally recognized on the last Friday in April and is observed throughout the nation and world and is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care; and
- Whereas, the City of Key West Tree Commission was established in 1971 by State legislation recognizing that trees on public and private property are economic and aesthetic assets to the citizens of the city; and
- Whereas, the City of Key West has been a member of Tree City USA for 4 years; and
- Whereas, native trees conserve water and provide forage and shelter for wildlife and also improve the health and beauty of the community; and
- Whereas, the City of Key West is recognized as an important migratory bird route located in one of the four major flyways. Native trees create a more sustainable environment that is not only beneficial to wildlife but also easily maintained; and
- Whereas, the philosophy of right tree, right place helps to ensure a future canopy of healthy trees; and
- Whereas, the Tree Commission, the Urban Forester and the Community Services Department are responsible for the planting of trees along the sidewalks and parks of the City. The Tree Commission has encouraged the replacement of over 300 native trees by the citizens of the City; and
- Whereas, the Urban Forester and the Community Services Department has this past year planted over 35 native trees in sidewalk planters throughout the City. The City will be planting ten new trees in sidewalk planters the last week of April in honor of Arbor Day

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Craig Cates, and the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclaim
April 29, 2016 as

ARBOR DAY

In the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." And I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree in their yard and to support efforts to protect our existing trees.

WITNESS our hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 16th day of March, 2016.

Jimmy Weekley, District I Commissioner

Craig Cates, Mayor

Richard Payne, District IV Commissioner

Billy Wardlow, District III Commissioner

Clayton Lopez, District VI Commissioner

Margaret Romero, District V Commissioner

Sam Kaufman, District II Commissioner