



PROCLAMATION

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.

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 20, 2016, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school.

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.

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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Craig Cates, Mayor of Key West do hereby proclaim October 20, 2016, as

"Lights On Afterschool Day"

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Mayor enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool* and commits our community 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 18th day of October 2016.

Craig Cates, MAYOR