



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS** The Mission Statement of the Lions International organization is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs; and
- WHEREAS** during the 1925 Lions International convention, Helen Keller charged Lions with becoming “knights of the blind in the crusade of against darkness”; and
- WHEREAS** in 1930, the President of the Peoria Lions Club introduced the idea of using the white cane as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility; and
- WHEREAS** the Key West Lions Club was established in 1938, initiating the Dr. Jose Sanchez Lions Eye Clinic in 1960 to provide funding for eye examinations, eye glasses and cataract surgery for low-income Florida Keys residents; and
- WHEREAS** in 1964, the U.S. Congress approved resolution authorizing the President of the U.S. to annually issue a proclamation designating October 15<sup>th</sup> as “National White Cane Safety Day;” and
- WHEREAS** in 1969, the International Federation of the Blind, adopted October 15<sup>th</sup> as International White Cane Safety Day”; and
- WHEREAS** throughout the world, the white cane is used by people who are blind or visually impaired as a tool for safe and reliable navigation, and is a symbol of the user’s skills and talents, mobility and independence; and
- WHEREAS** Dan and Leslie Spoone, in association with the Florida Council of the Blind, Inc. in Orlando, exemplify the tenets of Lionism in their work on behalf the Council of the Blind serving as National Committee Chairs; and
- WHEREAS** it is an honor to welcome and acknowledge such extraordinary representatives for the visually impaired to our One Human Family.

Now Therefore, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim, October 15th as:

### **Dan & Leslie Spoone - White Cane Safety Day**

And I encourage all residents to become familiar with White Cane Law as it the key to implementation and understanding of this State Statute and its objectives.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

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Craig Cates, MAYOR