



WHEREAS, January 2017 is recognized as National Mentoring Month during which we celebrate the vital role mentors play in providing crucial support and guidance to our young adults as they grow and develop into our next generation of citizens and leaders; and

WHEREAS, first established in 2014 in Monroe County, Florida, Keys to Be the Change provides students with mentoring programs that empower them to make positive changes in their lives and in their community; and

WHEREAS, in Key West Florida, the non-profit Keys to Be the Change provides reading literacy mentors to students in kindergarten thru twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, Keys to Be the Change collaborates with the Key West Police Department, the United States Coast Guard and the State Attorney's office to provide mentors to at risk youth in our community through the Kids Win Pathways to Success Program at both Horace O'Bryant Middle School and Key West High School; and

WHEREAS, the organization promises the support of a caring mentor who meets weekly at school to build self-esteem, self-worth and self-confidence which empower our youth to make healthy choices in their lives; and

WHEREAS, the work of Keys to Be the Change mentors results in a success rate of over 70% reducing truancy and increasing grades of mentees in all of their programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Sam Kaufman, District II Commissioner do hereby proclaim
the month of January, 2017, as:

KEYS TO BE THE CHANGE MENTORING MONTH

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United, I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors to participate fittingly in this observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 18th day of January, 2017.

Commissioner Sam Kaufman