



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**TO:** Jim Scholl, City Manager

**FROM:** James Bouquet, Director of Engineering

**DATE:** Revised June 8, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Approving a Work Authorization to Bermello Ajamil and Partners, Inc. for Truman Waterfront Park Fruit Tree Garden Landscape Architectural Services

### ACTION STATEMENT:

Approve a Work Authorization to Bermello Ajamil and Partners, Inc. for Truman Waterfront Park Fruit Tree Garden design and construction oversight in the amount of \$13,090.00 consistent with a recommendation from the Truman Waterfront Advisory Board. Approve necessary budget transfers.

### BACKGROUND

Key West has a rich history of tropical fruit, a history that is nearly forgotten today. The early Key West settlers were a mix of Bahamians, Cubans and Anglos. The Cubans and Bahamians families, culturally different, had different preferred fruits and different culinary uses for fruit. As the cultures integrated, they formed an interesting and historically significant tropical fruit culture in Key West.

One of many Key West tropical fruit stories and a better known one is the mamey sapote. The one growing near a fire station in Key West is a prized cultivar. The seeds of this tree were believed to come from Cuba by way of 19th century dissidents who left the island at that time. The tree was originally called the Key West mamey sapote until it was selected and propagated by Eugenio Pantin in the early 1950s. The story goes that a Cuban émigré named Josefina Jimenez smuggled three mamey seeds into the US in her brassiere and gave them to Pantin, who grew them as seedling rootstocks, onto which he grafted budwood of the Key West mamey tree. Pantin then proceeded to plant a small commercial orchard in Miami-Dade County, Florida. This mamey is known throughout the tropical fruit world as the Pantin or Key West mamey.

At the March 20, 2017 meeting, the Truman Waterfront Advisory Board (TWAB) voted to recommend the Naval Properties Local Development Authority (LRA) approve siting a fruit grove at the Truman Waterfront Park (refer to attached TWAB meeting minutes). Following this direction, Engineering Services requested a proposal from Bermello Ajamil and Partners, Inc. (BA) to design and oversee construction/plantings of the fruit grove under their General Landscape Architectural Services agreement with the City (Resolution 12-221, extended through July 2017 by Resolution 15-209) and that BA add Patrick Garvey/Grimal Grove, LLC of Big Pine Key as a subconsultant. BA subsequently submitted a proposal for Work Authorization No. 1 Truman Waterfront Park Fruit Tree Garden dated April 11, 2017 (attached). The proposed fee of \$19,620. includes concept sketch, preparation of construction drawings and plant installation/construction oversight. Design components include, but are not limited to, landscape design, plant selection, irrigation and security fencing. Irrigation system will be designed to accommodate (by pipe schedule, depth) surface loading/impacts from vehicles, equipment or boat trailers.

Grimal Grove, LLC is included in the design team and will provide local knowledge relative to tree selection, soil suitability, siting and planting oversight. The grove is to be located at the southern end of the park as conceptually indicated on Page 1 of the BA proposal.

## **PURPOSE & JUSTIFICATION**

Truman Waterfront Park Fruit Tree Garden will distinguish Key West's little known tropical fruit history and is intended as a living museum. It will create a space for visitors and locals to learn, and enjoy the wonders of tropical fruit, as well as understand the edible vegetation used historically in Key West. The park will have a strong educational component, an excellent resource for local history and food education. It will be an asset in teaching our youth about nutrition, agriculture and preparing fruits. The park will also be a symbol for local food and will support agro-tourism in Key West.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The cost to complete Work Authorization No. 1 is \$13,090.00 to be funded under budget account 101-4303-543.63-00. A budget transfer from Project GR703 (Truman Waterfront Development) to access available funds resulting from GR0703 Owner Direct Purchase of materials is required.

Staff have reviewed the proposal and determined the fee is fair and reasonable for the required services. Cost for fruit grove materials, planting and construction will be requested by a future resolution.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Truman Waterfront Advisory Board and Engineering Services staff recommend approving a Work Authorization to Bermello Ajamil and Partners, Inc. for Truman Waterfront Park Fruit Tree Garden design and construction oversight in the amount of \$13,090.00 and approve necessary budget transfers.