



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, November 15th is America Recycles Day; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West committed to meet the State of Florida's 75% waste diversion goal; and

WHEREAS, the other R's of Reducing, Reusing are important first actions before Recycling; and

WHEREAS, single-use, disposable items like straws, plastic bags, plastic cutlery and styrofoam have been found throughout our mangroves, beaches and nearshore waters; and

WHEREAS, these items do not biodegrade, but instead break down into microplastics, which now can be found not only in arctic ice, but also the stomachs of our seafood, and in our own blood streams; and

WHEREAS, nonprofits like Reef Relief have shown leadership by spearheading Skip The Straw campaigns, convincing over 300 keys restaurants to not give a straw unless asked; and

WHEREAS, nonprofits like Surfrider have launched the Ocean Friendly Restaurants Certification, recognizing restaurants like Date & Thyme and La Creperie French Café that don't use Styrofoam or plastic bags, and only give straws and to-go utensils on request;

WHEREAS, working together, the City and these nonprofits have launched the Ocean Friendly online postcard where you can ask your favorite restaurant to change for the better;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Teri Johnston, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim November 15th, 2018 as

America Recycles Day

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all residents, businesses, organizations and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Composting their waste stream.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 20th day of November, 2018.

Teri Johnston, Mayor