



WHEREAS, The joint United Nations Program (UNAIDS) on HIV/AIDS, the American Association for World Health, and the World Health Organization (WHO) observes December 1st of each year as World AIDS Day, this year marking its 31st anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The CDC estimates that there are 1.2 million people in the United States alone infected with HIV, and that as many as one hundred and eighty thousand who do not know that they are infected with the AIDS virus; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day provides us all with an opportunity to “think globally and act locally” by focusing attention on the need for individual and collective involvement in the care of those living with AIDS and prevention of new HIV infections; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS remains a highly stigmatized condition, where cultural and ethnic disparities exist and persist in growing numbers because fear and discrimination of that stigma may prevent many from seeking treatment, or from disclosing their zero-status; and

WHEREAS, Discrimination of any kind including that pertaining to a person’s HIV status should not be tolerated in the city of Key West, Florida where we strive to live as “One Human Family”; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of the AIDS Memorial, Inc. in Key West will conduct a candlelight March and remembrance ceremony at the AIDS Memorial to which the public is invited at 5:00 PM on December 1, with the theme “**Know Your Status**”.

WHEREAS, There is still no vaccine or cure for HIV/AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Teri Johnston, Mayor and Clayton Lopez, District VI Commissioner of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 1st, 2018 as

WORLD AIDS DAY

In the “Southernmost City of the Continental United States”. I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to take part in activities and observances designed to increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS so we may help prevent its further spreading both locally and worldwide

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

Clayton Lopez, Commissioner District VI

Teri Johnston, MAYOR