

# THE CITY OF KEY WEST PLANNING BOARD Staff Report



**To:** Chairman and Planning Board Members

**Through:** Roy Bishop, Planning Director

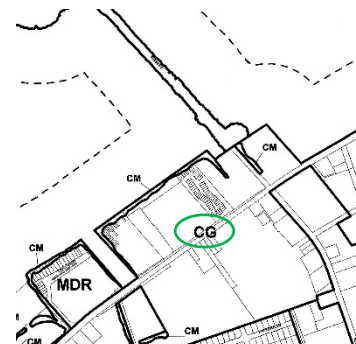
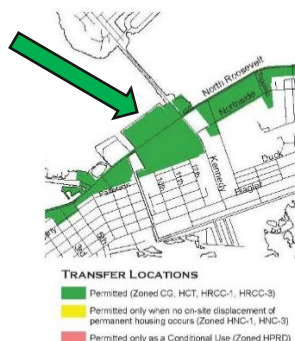
**From:** Vanessa Sellers, Planner II

**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2019

**Agenda Item:** **Transient Unit/License Transfer – One (1)-unit & license in unassigned status (lic. no. 34119) to 2 Key Cove Drive #2 (RE# 00002410-000502) -**  
A request to transfer one transient unit & license in unassigned status to a property located within the General Commercial (CG) zoning district pursuant to the Land Development Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Key West, Florida.

SITE DATA:		
	Sender Site	Receiver Site
<b>License Owner:</b>	Old Town Trolley Tours of America, Inc.	Key Cove Landings, LLC
<b>Property Owner:</b>	N/A – Unassigned.	Key Cove Landings, LLC
<b>Agent:</b>	Richard McChesney of Spottswood, Spottswood, Spottswood, & Sterling	Richard McChesney of Spottswood, Spottswood, Spottswood, & Sterling
<b>Location:</b>	N/A – Unassigned.	2 Key Cove Drive #2
<b>Real Estate Number:</b>	N/A – Unassigned.	00002410-000502
<b>Zoning District:</b>	N/A – Unassigned.	CG
<b>Existing Use:</b>	N/A – Unassigned.	A 4-bedroom/4-bathroom non-transient residential unit (approx. 2,400 sf) – Lic. # 25137.
<b>Proposed Use:</b>	N/A – Unassigned.	A 4-bedroom/4-bathroom transient residential unit.

## Proposed Receiver Site:



## **Background:**

The subject transient license originated from the Santa Maria Motel in the Historic Commercial Tourist (HCT) district, where transient lodging is a use that is permitted by right. According to city records, the motel received a major development approval (Planning Board Resolution no. 2004-17 dated June 17, 2004; and City Commission Resolution no. 04-298 dated September 8, 2004) to demolish the 51-unit motel, each one or two rooms, and replace them with 35-units, each with three or four rooms.

The subject business tax receipt has the following restriction: “No transfer of location available.” See image below for reference.

**CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA**  
**Business Tax Receipt**

This Document is a business tax receipt  
Holder must meet all City zoning and use provisions.  
P.O. Box 1409, Key West, Florida 33040 (305) 809-3955

Business Name: OLD TOWN TROLLEY TOURS OF WASHINGTON INC  
Location Addr: UNASSIGNED  
Lic NBR/Class: 34119  
Issued Date: 9/30/2019  
Expiration Date: September 30, 2020  
TRANSIENT UNASSIGNED

Comments: ONE TRANSIENT HOTEL UNIT FROM SANTA MARIA  
Restrictions: NO TRANSFER OF LOCATION AVAILABLE

OLD TOWN TROLLEY TOURS OF WASHINGTON INC  
201 FRONT ST #107  
KEY WEST, FL 33040

SWIFT III, EDWIN O

*Image of BTR #34119*

The applicant is seeking approval to transfer the transient license from unassigned status to a receiver site at 2 Key Cove Drive #2. The proposed receiver site currently consists of one (1) non-transient, 2,400-square foot, 4-bedroom/4-bathroom residential unit with the following layout:

Ground Floor:	Parking and Storage
First Floor:	Living Area, Dining Area, Kitchen, 1 Full Bath, Utility Room, and 1 Bedroom with a Closet
Second Floor:	3 Bedrooms, Each with a Closet, and 3 Full Baths

## **Relevant Code Sections:**

The purpose of City Code Chapter 122, Article V, Division 6 “Transient Units” outlined in Section 122-1336 is to:

- Provide for the transfer of existing transient units and transient licenses in order to reduce noncomplying density, structures and uses;
- Remove legal nonconforming transient uses from zoning districts that now prohibit them;
- Encourage permanent residential housing by relocating transient licenses;
- Provide for the conversion of transient units to single-family dwellings by the transfer of units;
- Allow for redevelopment without increasing the population requiring evacuation during emergencies or increasing other public services;
- Protect environmentally sensitive lands; and

- Encourage redevelopment under the existing Building Permit Allocation System (BPAS) that limits the allowable number of residential and transient units.

City Code Section 122-1338. Transfer of transient units.

- (1) The unit being transferred must currently be counted as a unit for purposes of calculating evacuation time under the hurricane model set forth in the comprehensive plan and must have been obtained in accordance with all applicable regulations, including building permits, at the time of approval or have been otherwise validly obtained if unbuilt at the time of transfer. A transfer pursuant to this division shall not cause a net increase of units in the city.
- (2) Transient use must be an allowed zoning use on the receiver site, unless the units are to be converted into non-transient units as contemplated by subsection (3) of this section. Further, no transient unit shall be recognized for transfer purposes, regardless of whether it will be used transiently or non-transiently, unless accompanied by a business tax receipt duly issued pursuant to section 66-109(10). When units are transferred for non-transient use, the licenses will be extinguished.
- (3) Transient units may be converted to residential units at the appropriate exchange rate as determined by the comprehensive plan so as not to increase hurricane evacuation time. Where a residential unit is created by the transfer of a transient unit and the new residential unit is 600 square feet or less, the transient unit may be transferred at its .58 ROGO unit equivalency into a residential unit with transient use prohibited.
- (4) The transferred units shall not operate to increase density of the receiver site above the maximum allowed density.
- (5) Unless the planning board determines that special conditions exist at the receiver site that warrant otherwise, the transient unit may not include more than two rooms, excluding bathrooms, and excluding porches and decks that are clearly not enclosed or habitable.
- (6) At the sender site, any remaining transient units that are remodeled or combined may not increase the existing number of rooms, excluding bathrooms. All such units shall not have "lockout" capacity.
- (7) There shall be no transfer of units into a "V" zone as depicted on the most current flood insurance rate map, if the transfer would produce new construction.
- (8) Existing nonconforming buildings may receive units providing their nonconforming aspects are not increased.
- (9) Development plans for both sites shall be processed as provided in the LDRs, according to the magnitude and type of development.
- (10) No building permit shall be granted for the receiver site until the city has verified that the transient use at the sender site unit(s) has been extinguished. A person or entity who has lawfully terminated or extinguished legal transient units existing as of January 1, 1999, may preserve the right to transfer the units and then transfer such units pursuant to this section, provided the transient licenses have been maintained. Furthermore, the city shall conduct on-site inspections at both the sender site and receiver site to verify that the terms of this ordinance are being met in the proposed transfer application.

City Code Section 122-1339 (a) states that a business tax receipt (e.g., license) for transient use of a unit may itself be transferred from an area where transient uses are prohibited to a receiver site

without the accompanying transfer of the unit. In addition, licenses may be transferred from the HNC-1 and HNC-3 zoning districts. A transfer of a license under this section does not allow a loss of affordable housing at the receiver site.

City Code Section 122-1339 (b) states that where a license alone is transferred, the Planning Board shall consider whether the receiver site is suitable for transient use in the zoning district, shall consider the relative size of the unit from which the license is transferred, and shall consider the room configuration of both sites to maintain approximately the same or less net number of occupants.

City Code Section 122-1340. Development review committee and planning board review.

The development review committee (DRC) shall review each application for transfer. The planning board will receive comments from the DRC and the recommendation of the planning department and may deny an application on the grounds of inconsistency with the purpose of the ordinance or a violation of the specific provisions of the ordinance. When approving an application, the planning board may impose conditions, including but not limited to: physical modifications and the filing of deed restrictions, in order to assure the continuation of permanent residential housing, the preservation of community character and that the transfer advances the purposes of this division. The decision of the planning board shall be final.

**Analysis:**

The proposed transient unit/license transfer involves the transfer of one (1) transient unit and license. The proposed receiver site located at 2 Key Cove Drive #2 has one existing non-transient dwelling unit.

The following table summarizes the applicable approval criteria for the transfer of a transient unit pursuant to City Code **Section 122-1338**.

<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>Proposal:</b>	<b>Complies? (Yes or No)</b>
<b>Sender Site</b>	<b>Unassigned</b>	
Has transient license from the City	N/A – The proposed transfer does not include the transfer of a unit.	N/A.
The unit is lawful and has been counted in the BPAS	N/A – The proposed transfer does not include the transfer of a unit.	N/A.
Remaining number of rooms to same / does not increase BPAS count	N/A – The proposed transfer does not include the transfer of a unit.	N/A.
Final use conforms with the LDRs	N/A – The proposed transfer does not include the transfer of a unit.	N/A.
Development review process required for proposed construction / redevelopment	N/A – The proposed transfer does not include the transfer of a unit.	N/A.

<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>Proposal:</b>	<b>Complies? (Yes or No)</b>
<b>Receiver Site</b>	<b>2 Key Cove Drive #2</b>	
Transient use is allowed, or the use is residential	Transient lodging is a permitted use of the CG zoning district.	Yes.
Complies with density	Maximum allowable density for this property is 1.6 (rounded down it is 1).	No. Allowed density for this property is 1 unit, however, the applicant proposes to lift the non-transient unit and replace it with the transient unit. The lifted unit will revert back to the city for beneficial use.
The transient units retain BPAS equivalency	The license and unit will be transferred as 0.86 ESFU.	Yes.
New construction is not located with the "V" zone	The property is located in the Zone AE – Elevation 9-feet zone.	Yes.
Homeowners or Condo Association has approved	The applicant submitted an Amendment to the Declaration of Condominium and a Consent and Joinder of First Mortgage.	Yes.
Transient units may not exceed two rooms in size, excluding bathrooms	The receiver site has four (4) bedrooms.	No, unless the planning board determines that special conditions exist at the receiver site that warrant otherwise.

The following table summarizes the applicable approval criteria for a transient business tax receipt transfer pursuant to City Code **Section 122-1339**:

(a) A business tax receipt for transient use of a unit may itself be transferred from an area where transient uses are prohibited to a receiver site without the accompanying transfer of the unit. In addition, licenses may be transferred from the HNC-1 and HNC-3 zoning districts. A transfer of a license under this section shall not result in a loss of affordable housing at the receiver site.

	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Complies? (Yes or No)</b>
Transient license transfer from an area where transient uses are prohibited	The subject license originated from a location within the HCT zoning district where transient uses are permitted.	No.
Transient license transfer from HNC-1 and HNC-3 zoning districts	The subject license originated from the HCT zoning district.	No.
Transfer would not result in a loss of affordable housing at the receiver site	The receiver site is not deed-restricted affordable housing.	Yes.

(b) Where a license alone is transferred, the planning board shall consider whether the receiver site is suitable for transient use in the zoning district, shall consider the relative size of the unit from which the license is transferred, and shall consider the room configuration of both sites to maintain approximately the same or less net number of occupants.

Receiver site suitable for transient use	The receiver site is located within the CG zoning district where transient use is permitted.	Yes.
Relative size of the unit from which the licenses are transferred	Although staff does not know the exact square footage of the sender site, the subject license originated from a motel with one and two room accommodations.	No.
Room configuration of both sites to maintain approximately the same or less net number of occupants	Staff does not know if the sender site was one room or two rooms. However, the receiver site consists of 4-bedrooms.	No.

### **Recommendation:**

Pursuant to section 122-1338 (4), the transferred units shall not operate to increase density of the receiver site above the maximum allowed density.

Pursuant to section 122-1338 (5), unless the planning board determines that special conditions exist at the receiver site that warrant otherwise, the transient unit may not include more than two rooms, excluding bathrooms, and excluding porches and decks that are clearly not enclosed or habitable.

Pursuant to section 122-1339 (a), a business tax receipt for transient use of a unit may itself be transferred from an area where transient uses are prohibited to a receiver site without the accompanying transfer of the unit. In addition, licenses may be transferred from the HNC-1 and HNC-3 zoning districts.

Pursuant to section 122-1339 (b), where a license alone is transferred, the planning board shall consider whether the receiver site is suitable for transient use in the zoning district, shall consider the relative size of the unit from which the license is transferred, and shall consider the room configuration of both sites to maintain approximately the same or less net number of occupants.

Based on the above analysis of the standards for considering transfers of transient units and transient business tax receipts in Section 122-1338 and 122-1339 of the Land Development Regulations, the Planning Department recommends the request to transfer one transient license from unassigned status to 2 Key Cove Drive #2 be **denied**.

However, if the Planning Board approves the request, staff would like to require the following conditions:

1. All requirements of City Code Section 122-1371 shall be met for the transient use of the residential dwelling unit at 2 Key Cove Drive #2. A contact person must be available 24-hours per day, seven days per week for the purpose of responding promptly to complaints regarding the conduct of the occupants of the residential dwelling transient lodging. The name and phone number of the contact person must be posted on the exterior of the dwelling in a place accessible to the public.
2. The unit proposed to be used on a transient basis shall comply with all applicable codes and requirements of the Building Department, Fire Department, and all other regulatory agencies. The unit may not undergo a renovation or remodel that would increase the number of bedrooms.
3. The owner shall obtain and maintain a Conditional Approval Permit, pursuant to City Code Chapter 18, Article XII, Division 1. The Code Compliance Department shall inspect the property on an annual basis upon reasonable notice to determine compliance with the conditions of the Planning Board resolution.
4. The owner shall obtain and maintain a Conditional Approval Permit for Planning Board Resolution no. 2003-042 (approving an application for a minor development plan to construct 10 new single-family dwellings), pursuant to City Code Chapter 18, Article XII, Division 1. The Code Compliance Department shall inspect the property on an annual basis upon reasonable notice to determine compliance with the 10 conditions of the Planning Board resolution.
5. Automobile parking shall be restricted to the garages and the driveways. On-street parking and sidewalk parking shall be prohibited.
6. Occupancy shall be limited to 2 persons per bedroom or up to 8 persons per residential unit.