

Keri O'Brien

From: Cheri Smith
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Keri O'Brien
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] no to City Attorney's resolution

From: Arlo Haskell <arlohaskell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Billy Wardlow <bwardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Gregory Davila <gdavila@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Mary Lou Hoover <mlhoover@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; Teri Johnston <tjohnston@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Cc: Patti McLauchlin <pmclauchlin@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
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(City Clerk: please add this to the record)

Mayor Johnston and Commissioners:

Over the past two months, I have seen the City Attorney tell you multiple times that you would have the opportunity to approve the selection of outside counsel. In my view, this is the correct approach for such a politically sensitive issue as this one. It places ultimate responsibility for an issue of great public interest with elected leaders who are responsible to the public.

Our community has seen all of you speak in support of the voters and of their voice. We have not seen the same from the City Attorney. Your seats on the dais are proof of the fact that we trust you to act in our interests, and we have the levers of democracy available to us if you break that trust. We do not have the same authority to oversee City staff.

The City Attorney's resolution tonight would take away your authority over a very important issue. It would show the public there is no accountability for the City Attorney's actions and no expectation that he live up to commitments which he makes to you in public meetings. Worst of all, it would suggest that you want to avoid responsibility for important decisions regarding a matter of great interest to the public.

Please vote no to the City Attorney's resolution tonight.

Thank you,

Arlo Haskell