



THE CITY OF KEY WEST
201 William Street Key West, FL 33040 (305) 809-3790

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Greg Veliz, City Manager

CC: Patti McLauchlin, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Doug Bradshaw, Port and Marine Services Director

DATE: March 3, 2020

SUBJECT: New Agreement for Reef Relief to continue to manage and maintain the Key West Marine Park.

ACTION STATEMENT

This is a request to enter into a new Agreement with Reef Relief to continue to manage and maintain the Key West Marine Park.

PROJECT ISSUE

In 2001 the City of Key West and Reef Relief created the Key West Marine Park on the south side of the Island from the White Street Pier to the end of Duval Street, extending seaward 600 feet, Resolution 01-259. In 2006, citing a lack of funds to maintain the park by Reef Relief, the City took over the management and maintenance utilizing employees from the Key West Historic Seaport and City Marina. In December 2011, Reef Relief approached City staff about resuming management of the Marine Park. Additionally, at that time the Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued a Letter of Consent to the City to turn responsibility for the park over to Reef Relief. City Commission passed Resolution 12-025 giving Reef Relief a three (3) year agreement for the management and maintenance.

The agreement was renewed in January 2015 by Resolution 15-028. That agreement had a provision for an additional five (5) years which needed to be renewed by January 2020. However the existing agreement needed some minor modifications including updated indemnification language so both parties have agreed to enter into a new agreement which is attached. Currently Reef Relief is operating under a month-to-month agreement with the City.

OPTIONS

There are three options:

1. Approve the attached Agreement authorizing Reef Relief to continue management and maintenance of the marine park.
2. Disapprove the attached Agreement and manage and maintain the park with City Staff,

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.

3. Remove the park and demarcation buoys altogether.

ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES

Approval of this request will ensure the long term maintenance of the Key West Marine Park at no direct cost to the City. Disapproval will require ongoing funding and personnel in support of the Marine Park. Removal of the park all together removes the protection that that swimmers and other users of the park have become accustomed to over the years.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Reef Relief assumes all financial responsibility for maintaining the Marine Park and providing educational literature for users.

RECOMMENDATION

Given the enhanced safety aspect for swimmers and the educational benefit to both tourists and local citizens, staff recommends approval of the new Agreement.