

Keri O'Brien

From: Kerry Baker <membership@keywestchamber.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 4:26 PM
To: Danise Henriquez; Gregory Veliz; Samuel Kaufman; Monica Haskell; Lissette Carey; Aaron Castillo; Donald Lee
Cc: Brian L. Barroso; Keri O'Brien
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Parameters of Stantec Contract

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Good afternoon Mayor and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Key West Chamber of Commerce I wanted to send our public comments to you in advance of the meeting tomorrow, as these will be given after the presentation and your possible discussions.

First, I want to be clear—we fully support water quality monitoring. Protecting our environment is critical to our community, our economy, and our quality of life. We support the city in meeting its responsibility under City Code Section 80 to conduct independent, comprehensive water testing.

I also want to be clear that we do not have an opinion on who should perform this work. Our concerns are not about the vendor, they are about the process and making sure procurement and RFP procedures are followed in a clear, consistent, and transparent way.

Our comments are simply about how the process has unfolded.

There have been a few points along the way that have raised concern. The RFP had to be reissued due to scoring errors by staff, a mistake in our opinion that should not have happened, and more recently, there seems to be some uncertainty about what exactly has been awarded. Based on the last meeting, it appears this could function more like a consulting agreement, with individual task orders coming back before the Commission with separate costs.

It was our understanding that this would come forward as a clearly defined project. Having that clarity upfront is important for both the Commission and the public. Instead, this process has been difficult to follow, especially to understand the full scope and total costs.

We also encourage continued transparency as this moves forward especially around how the data will be used, and what authority the City has over the waterways being tested. Can the City correct an issue if one is reported?

Clean water is essential to all of us—and so is financial responsibility.

The Chamber represents our members, members of the business community, of which approximately 73% are small businesses. Supporting a sustainable local economy is central to our mission, and careful stewardship of public funds is extremely important to us as we represent some of the largest contributors to our tax rolls.

We respectfully encourage clarity and transparency as this effort continues. And once again, we fully support water quality monitoring and the protection of our community's waters.

Thank you for your time. Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Kerry



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“The mission of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce is to serve its members and support a viable economy for Key West.”